



THE AUSTRALIAN

garden journal

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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Front Cover:

Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthii*)

photograph by Paul Jones

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Contributors to this Issue

Diana Pockley

is a past Chairman of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Garden Committee. She is also a Foundation Member, Trustee and past President of the Embroiderers' Guild of N.S.W.

Wendy Littlewood

has an Arts Diploma from Newcastle Technical College and is now working as a freelance artist in Sydney. She and her husband live in a mid-nineteenth century terrace house in East Sydney, and she is presently engaged in researching the early history of this area.

Gordon Julian

started gardening only about four years ago in his home town of Toowoomba. In a remarkably short period he has built up an extensive collection of alpine and sub-alpine plants, and has acquired a wide knowledge of their cultural requirements. He corresponds and exchanges seeds with many other enthusiasts overseas.

Edwin Wilson

was born in Lismore, N.S.W.; his family had, for three generations, been farmers at Wardell, Richmond River. He was appointed science teacher at Forest High School, French's Forest, in 1962, and later a lecturer in biology at Armidale Teachers' College. In 1972 he became an Education Officer at the Australian Museum in Sydney, and in 1980 was appointed Extension Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. There he has worked on the development of public relations and community programmes.

George Veitch

became interested in native plants shortly after the war when, returning to Australia after some years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Singapore, he and his wife Helen started their native garden in French's Forest. In 1965 he became involved with Katandra and was instrumental in helping with the building of the tracks and bridges. An early Trustee, he is now Secretary of the Katandra Bushland Trust which administers the Sanctuary.

"This Strange Eventful History"

As each year draws to an end one starts to wonder for what it will be chiefly remembered? Or, more importantly, for what would we like it to be remembered?

History tends to play strange tricks with what we see as facts. Which no doubt led Henry Ford to describe it as "more or less bunk", and James Joyce as "a nightmare from which I am trying to awake". Future generations will look back and judge each year in the light of the mores of *their* day, in the light of *their* knowledge and understanding, and no doubt will find much that will be incomprehensible to them.

The human race, however, is slow to learn from its history. Hegel, in his "Philosophy of History" says "people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it". H.G. Wells thought that "history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe".

In the third century A.D. the Romans celebrated the 25th December as the birthday of the unconquered Sun. It also happened to be the day following the end of the Saturnalia, a week-long uninhibited junketing, so it is hardly surprising that the early Christian Church selected the same day to celebrate the birth of Christ — a sort of antidote to the preceding orgy.

As Christmas Day was, originally, the day of the Sun God, so was the New Year the time for the renewal of life, and for the victory of order over chaos.

Is it too fanciful to extend this early symbolism of the sun and the renewal of life to our present circumstance, as 1983 gives way to 1984? As the Phoenix came every five hundred years to Helio-polis, the City of the Sun, to incinerate itself on the altar fire and rise anew from the ashes, so hopefully will many now be arising anew from the ashes of last February.

It is for *that* that we, and our children, must remember 1983. Not only those who lost their lives, their families or their homes in those devastating fires, not only the heroism of those who fought them, but our helplessness, our inability, and in some cases our unpreparedness. It seems incredible that while modern technology can design a space capsule that can crash into the earth's atmosphere and endure a heat of tens of thousands of degrees, it cannot, or will not, design a human habitation able to withstand a bush fire.

So much do we learn from history, this "strange, eventful history". Should I complete the quotation from Shakespeare?

"..... Last scene of all
that ends this strange eventful history
is second childishness and mere oblivion
sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything".
I'm glad to say that, for us at least, life isn't yet *that* bad!
From us both, a Happy Christmas - and a Bountiful New Year.

TIM AND KEVA NORTH.

W.F. (Frank) Walker, A.O.

was born in Tasmania, and has held many different positions in the horticultural world, at State, national and international level. These include Chief Horticulturist in the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture, Chairman of the Commonwealth States Horticultural Committee, and from 1974 to 1978 President of the International Society for Horticultural Science.

Jean Harrison

is one of a small band of stalwarts who help to keep Katandra weed-free. This is delicate work as the fragile nature of the Sanctuary must remain undisturbed. Jean has been interested in painting for some time and still attends art classes. Her other interests are spinning and weaving, and she is at present engaged in establishing a blend of native and exotic plants on her small property near Mudgee.

Trevor Nottle

is a regular contributor to "The Australian Garden Journal" and an avid collector of all kinds of hardy perennials and bulbs, raising many from seed.

Our New Address

By the time this issue is published the editorial office of "The Australian Garden Journal" will have moved.

Our new address is **32 Kangaloon Road, Bowral, N.S.W. 2576**, and the address for all mail is **P.O. Box 588, Bowral, N.S.W. 2576**. Our telephone number will be **(048) 61 1884**.

For the time being at least, the mailing address for the Australian Garden History Society will remain P.O. Box 300, Edgecliff, N.S.W. 2027. Although arrangements exist for the prompt collection of mail from that address, *urgent* mail for the Secretary may be sent to the Bowral P.O. Box 588. The Secretary's telephone number is as above, (048) 61 1884.

Quotable Quotes

"A garden should be rather small,
Or you will have no fun at all". (Reginald Arkell)
Pope, on Topiary

"Adam and Eve in Yew - St. George in Box, his arm scarce long enough but will be in condition to stick the dragon by next April".

"Anyone can cultivate an herbaceous border, but to grow a natural garden is an art and a science". (F. S. Smythe, "The Valley of the Flowers").



A Natural Garden

by Tim North

We hear and read a good deal nowadays about "natural bush gardens", by which is meant the integration of plants into the environment.

Gertrude Jekyll wrote that "it was evident that the beautiful stretch of forest ground deserved to have its own sentiment preserved as much as possible and that where it met the garden it would be well that the two should join easily and without any sudden jolt..."

The good Gertrude, however, and before her the volatile Robinson, looked at the woodland garden only from an aesthetic viewpoint. Much later there came a wider ecological approach to garden making, a true understanding of the relationship between garden plants and the environment.

One of the first men to realise the benefits of this understanding was Geoffrey Blackman, who was Sibthorpe Professor of Rural Economy at Oxford University from 1945 to 1970. Ten years before this appointment he had written in "The Gardeners' Chronicle" (of which he was associate editor for five years) - "Horticulture might well be defined as a study of plants in a man-made environment, and ecology as a study of plants in the tranquillity of Nature, untouched by Man. Clearly these two subjects have a great deal in common, but even though it is often implied, it is seldom stated that ecology has a direct bearing on horticulture, or, for that matter, horticulture on ecology. Yet research workers in both fields are attacking similar problems, with only this difference, that the ecologist chooses to conduct his experiments "where every prospect pleases and only Man is vile..."

Professor Blackman started by asking himself what appears to be a simple question - "Why do bluebells grow in woods?" The answer is that the bluebells will grow quite happily in full sun, but they hate being trampled on by animals; so they retreated from the meadows into the woods. Studies such as this made Geoffrey Blackman an outstanding woodland gardener.

When appointed to the Sibthorpe Chair he refused to live in North Oxford, where nearly all the Oxford professors had their homes, because there weren't any rhododendrons.

His opportunity came when he was appointed to the honorary position of Keeper of the Groves at St. John's College, for St. John's had owned Bagley Wood, a few miles outside Oxford, for the past four hundred years. A house on the outskirts of the wood, named West Wood, was rented from the College, and from there cartloads of leafmould were transported to the College gardens, in order to transform the alkaline North Oxford soil into a habitat for his beloved rhododendrons. At the same time the Professor set to planting rhododendrons at West Wood, including some of the original Kingdom-Ward introductions; primulas, gentians, lilies and meconopsis were planted also.

In 1967 the Blackmans left West Wood and bought their own house on the other side of Bagley Wood. This was Wood Croft, and here Geoffrey Blackman created the garden of his dreams, "the culmination of a life's study of the interrelationships of plants and their environment". To Wood Croft came all the rhododendrons from the previous home, now so large that they had to be dropped into their holes from a forklift truck.



THE GARDEN AT WOOD CROFT

There was an added bonus at Wood Croft, since that part of Bagley Wood had once been the haunt of potters, and they had left sunken clay-pits which filled naturally with water, enabling all the bog-loving primulas and such plants as astilbes to be grown as well. The historical connection with potters was a particularly happy one, since Geoffrey Blackman's wife, Audrey, is herself an internationally famous ceramic artist.

Geoffrey Blackman died in 1980, but his garden lives on as his memorial. His valued week-end gardener, Mr McDermott, summed it up in these words "The Professor set it going and it created itself. He put the plants in their rightful places, where they wanted to be, and it's now so relaxed that I am quickly led to any plant that is unhappy. The Professor set the clock, and everything seemed just to go on. What he's done is going to last forever."

These simple, unsophisticated words seem to epitomise, perhaps better than any others could, the right approach to "natural gardening". It is not in the least incongruous that the rhododendrons and the poppies came from the Himalayas, the primulas from China and the azaleas from Japan, for we should not equate "natural gardening" with preserving the wilderness. By all means let us save the wilderness, but a wilderness and a garden are not the same thing, nor is a replica of the wilderness necessarily the only sound ecological environment.

Geoffrey Blackman created, in this corner of Bagley Wood, a true woodland garden. To enter it, which one does from the lawn that surrounds the house, is to enter a world apart, just to stand in it is a delight, to admire the brilliant groupings of rhododendrons, the drifts of candelabra primulas, the dots of bright blue meconopsis, is an experience, for here indeed, every plant is happy.

(I am indebted both to Audrey Blackman for showing me the garden at Wood Croft, and to Mavis Batey, Secretary of the English Garden History Society, for taking me there, lending me her photographs of the garden, and for her book "Oxford Gardens", from which has been taken much of the background information for this brief article: T.N.)

Katandra Bushland Sanctuary

by George Veitch: line drawings by Jean Harrison

There is an increasing interest among gardeners in growing Australian native plants. The introduction of attractive specimens, now available at many nurseries, or the transformation of a formal to an informal native garden is becoming popular.

One of the better places to see native plants growing freely and of their own accord, in their natural setting - a setting as wild and peaceful as when Captain Cook sailed up the coast - is Katandra Bushland Sanctuary.

This flora reserve is situated near Mona Vale, in Sydney's northern beaches area, just off the Mona Vale Road, and extends along the escarpment, overlooking the ocean.

Easy walking tracks take the visitor from the parking area, down the valley, across the creek and up to the lookout on the heathland, before turning back down the rain forest and over the creek again to the starting point.

Many visitors are attracted by the peace and quiet of the walk, many by the beauty and variety of the flowering plants - old favourites perhaps, seen again after many years - boronias and pea flowers ("eggs and bacon"), flannel flowers and dainty orchids; some are impressed by the size and undoubted age of the eucalypts, turpentine and casuarinas and especially the Sydney redgums (angophoras), the largest of which were old when Captain Philip explored the Pitt Water.

Growing amongst these ancient, then, and at the foot of the cliffs, are all the new young plants, which have regenerated since the last bushfires. It must be noted that the worst fire stopped at the creek, and in the heath area to the north some very old banksias and bloodwoods, as well as other varieties, can be seen.

Among the plants "born again" are stands of Katandra's own boronia (*B.mollis*) and *B.thujona* with its tall, graceful habit, flourishing again with many other species which were burnt. Nearby, along the creek, are remnants of rain forest — *Beryta astrotricha*, canthiums and coachwoods and the cork tree, *Endiandra sieberi*, overtopped by stately cabbage palms, the survivors of the ancient coastal forests.

More ancient still, in this young-old land, are the cliffs and tumbled boulders of the escarpment, bearing the imprint of some titanic upheaval. On one of these rock faces has been placed a plaque bearing the inscription "Katandra Bushland Sanctuary - a Bounteous Gift to Naturalists from Harold Seymour", who is our founder and still the most indefatigable member of the Trust which administers and maintains the reserve. High on this rock face, growing in the crevices, can be seen the fern ally, *Psilotum nudum*, which though lacking true roots possesses an efficient rhizome whose hairs absorb water and nutrients.

On the dry floor of one of the caves can be seen the footprints of the real owners, the night loving inhabitants so seldom seen — wallaby, possum, bandicoot or goanna — or one of the many birds that come to drink at the hollow stone. This water supply never dries up, percolating drip by drip from the overhanging roof. Nor has Katandra creek, with its coachwoods and Christmas Bush, its water gums and ferns (*Todea barbara*) gracing its banks, ever com-

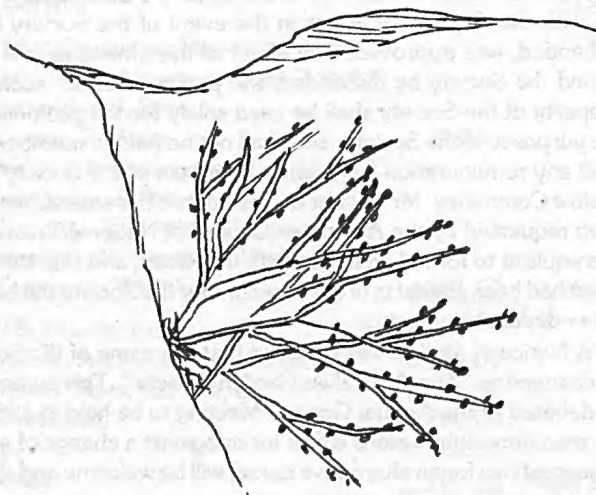


BORONIA THUJONA

pletely dried up. Lyre birds used to nest in the creek, just above the bridges, until driven away by the fires. Another fern ally, the rare *Tmesipteris truncata*, grows on the trunks of the todea fern.

A selection of favourite flowering shrubs, boronias and others, has been planted around the parking area, but it is intended that the main sanctuary should remain inviolate, in its natural state.

(Katandra Bushland Sanctuary is open on the third Sunday of every month throughout the year, from 10 am to 4 pm; during August, September and October it is open every Sunday at the same times. Entry is by donation. For further information about the Sanctuary write to P.O. Box 124, Mona Vale, NSW 2103, or telephone (02) 997 1407 (mornings only).)



PSILOTUM NUDUM (primitive plant of Katandra)

THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Patron: Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, D.B.E.

Executive Committee:

Chairman: Mr Howard Tanner (N.S.W.)

N.S.W.

Mr C. Betteridge

Mr T. North

Mr P. Watts

Mr L. Tropman

A.C.T.

Mr R. Ratcliffe

Vic.

Mr J. Patrick

Mrs J. Mitchell

S.A.

Dr J. Brine

Mrs M. Sando

Mr J.A.E. Whitehill

Tas.

Mrs E.A. Cameron

Mr M. Hurburgh

Mrs P. Ralph

W.A.

Mrs O. Richards

Secretary: Mr Tim North, P.O. Box 300, Edgecliff, N.S.W. 2027

Membership Secretary and Treasurer:

Mr Chris Betteridge, 3 Pine Street, Randwick, N.S.W. 2031

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary

larat and Bendigo being suggested as possible centres. A local Committee will be formed to make recommendations.

A suggestion was made from the floor of the meeting that the Executive Committee might make Brisbane the venue for one of its meetings, in order to stimulate interest in the Society in Queensland; this will be kept under consideration.

Mr Russell suggested that it would be appropriate for a presentation to be made to those who had opened their gardens to the Society during the Conference; this was agreed. Mrs Killip suggested that this could include a suitably engraved certificate of honorary membership.

Mr Robertson said that members of the Executive Committee should automatically sit on State Committees. The Chairman replied that this was the general policy but that, if State branches continued to expand the matter of representation on the Executive Committee might have to be reviewed.

A vote of thanks to the retiring members of the Executive Committee, and a vote of thanks to the members of the Conference Organizing Committee, were carried.

A proposal from the Chair that Professor W.T. Stearn be made an Honorary Life Member of the Society was carried.

Mr Nottle made a plea that the Miner's Cottage garden at Moonta, about which he had written in the Journal, be considered in any scheme for assisting historic gardens, as the present owner was in failing health and fast becoming unable to maintain this garden herself.

Report on the Third Annual General Meeting

The Third Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide on Saturday 5th November. It was attended by approximately 120 members, including the Patron, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, and distinguished guests Professor and Mrs William Stearn. Mr Howard Tanner was in the Chair.

The Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report and Membership Report are covered elsewhere on these pages.

Mr John Patrick (Vic), Mr Richard Ratcliffe (ACT) and Mr Lester Tropman (NSW) were elected to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancies caused through the resignation of Lady Ebury, Mrs Russell and Mrs Wilson.

An amendment to Article 7 of the Society's Constitution, dealing with the disposal of assets in the event of the Society being disbanded, was approved. The effect of this amendment is that, should the Society be disbanded, the profits or other income or property of the Society shall be used solely for the promotion of the purposes of the Society, and shall not be paid to members nor shall any remuneration be given to members of the Society's Executive Committee. Mr Tanner explained that this amendment had been requested by the Australian Council of National Trusts as a prerequisite to formal affiliation with that body, and that this affiliation had been sought in order to secure for the Society the benefit of tax-deductibility status.

A Notice of Motion was received that the name of the Society be changed to "The Australian Garden Society". This motion will be debated at the Annual General Meeting to be held in 1984; in the meantime submissions either for or against a change of name, or suggestions for an alternative name, will be welcome and should be addressed to the Secretary.

It was decided that the next Annual Conference should be held in the spring of 1984 in the Western District of Victoria, with Bal-

Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you attending this, our third Annual Conference, and especially to our distinguished guest speaker, Professor W.T. Stearn and his wife. Professor Stearn, under the sponsorship of our Society, is undertaking an Australia-wide lecture tour which I have no doubt will do much to increase public awareness in our Society and its objectives. As a small measure of our appreciation of his undertaking this tour and of the esteem in which he is held in scientific circles in this country, I am going to propose that we make him an Honorary Life Member of our Society.

I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts of our local Committee, Tony Whitehill, Margaret Sando, John Brine and Rodney Beames, in so ably organizing this Conference.

Next I would like to mention the important role that Tim North plays in the affairs of our Society, ably assisted by Keva North — as Secretary, as co-ordinator of Professor Stearn's visit, and as Editor of our Journal.

The Journal is the one solid link that brings members together. I cannot stress enough the need for contributions — we really need people who are able and willing to make regular contributions.

The Journal is also a vehicle for the exchange of ideas, facts and comment. James Broadbent's recent article on nineteenth century landscape gardens has aroused some comment, and this is good for we welcome further discussion on this article.

Our membership has grown considerably, from 368 at the last Annual Conference to 767 now, an increase of 108%. But we still need many more members, for the more members we have the better the Journal can become; we would, for example, like to have a colour picture on the front cover, or possibly a colour spread inside. If every member could enrol a friend we would be well on the way to having an important and valuable publication.

The increase in membership has been due largely to activities within States, though here I must say that performance has been unequal. Some States have maintained a strong programme of activities, while others have managed very little. I would like to see real activity in every State, and I believe that it is essential that each State has a working group which is able to keep local activities going; guidelines for the establishment of such groups have now been set. Since all members cannot get to the Annual Conference these local activities play a very important role in sustaining our Society; in this connection I would like to mention the very excellent Newsletter published by the Tasmanian group.

The Committee tries to meet in a full way twice a year, and as our distribution is Australia-wide this is an expensive activity.

Once at our Annual Conference and once between has to suffice for a full meeting, but in the meantime a smaller executive linked by the Secretary runs the day-to-day affairs of our Society.

The way is about to be opened to an affiliation with the Australian Council of National Trusts. There is a need for the Society to work closely with the National Trust in each State to ensure that major gardens are listed by the Trust, though we will maintain our independent role, and probably independent lists. In Victoria Peter Watts' work for the National Trust has led the field, and is publicly aired in his new book on the historic gardens of Victoria.

Our Society still has to decide whether to compile its own master list of significant gardens. It does, however, have an important role to play as a consultant. In New South Wales it has recently completed a preliminary survey of "Yaralla" at Concord, a major suburban estate dating from the Edwardian period, for the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. This role could be amplified, especially where the client is able to fund the work. Forest Lodge is a case in point.

To further our aims a number of members have produced, for the Society, a booklet "Historic Gardens in Australia, Guidelines for the Preparation of Conservation Plans". The National Trusts have agreed to assist in selling this and it will retail for \$4.50. A review panel assisted with the text but the whole thing caused quite a few late nights for Chris Betteridge and myself. We hope to bring out a companion volume on garden maintenance before the next Conference, and anyone who is willing to contribute to this should get in touch with the Secretary.

I would like to speak of the significance of Professor Stearn's visit. Professor Stearn is a very distinguished visitor, and I hope you will be able to attend one of his lectures in your own State. We hope that our Society will be able to bring out further speakers of a like calibre.

Finally, a word about next year's Conference. The suggestion has been made that it should be held in the Western District of Victoria. In 1985 we might visit the Canberra-Goulburn area.

Annual Conference and Professor Stearn's lecture tour

A full report on this year's Annual Conference in Adelaide and on Professor Stearn's lectures, including a summary of his important talk on "The Introduction of Plants into the Gardens of Western Europe during two thousand years" will be included in the next issue of *The Australian Garden Journal*, due early February 1984.

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 6th February 1982 to 31st October 1983.

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$13,535.32
RECEIPTS -		
Annual Subscriptions	\$18,459.30	
Conference Fees	1,535.00	
Donation	5.00	
Function income (note 1)	2,177.32	
Grant, Aust. Heritage Commission	933.60	
Interest received	547.69	
Journal sales (note 5)	70.35	23,728.26
		<u>37,263.58</u>
LESS PAYMENTS -		
Bank charges and duties	24.22	
Committee members expenses (Note 2)	3,780.32	
Conference - Tasmania (Note 3)	8,273.82	
Conference - Adelaide (Note 3)	2,350.80	
Expenses - Secretary (Note 4)	791.58	
Expenses - Treasurer (Note 4)	1,301.49	
Function expenses (Note 1)	1,629.29	
Gift	40.00	
Journal expenses (Note 5)	6,170.28	
Newsletter (Note 6)	1,781.69	
Stationery	76.05	26,219.54
		<u>11,044.04</u>
REPRESENTED BY-		
A.N.Z. Bank Cheque account	5,005.96	
A.N.Z. (N.S.W.) Savings Account	5,184.10	
A.N.Z. (Vic) Savings Account	574.93	
Commonwealth Savings Bank Account	279.05	11,044.04

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT

NOTE 1 Functions		
Income - N.S.W.	1,955.92	
Victoria	154.00	
A.C.T.	67.40	2,177.32
Expenses - N.S.W.	1,245.29	
Victoria	384.00	1,629.29
Net Surplus		548.03

NOTE 2 Committee Members		
Airfares - Melbourne meeting 7/8/82		
C. Betteridge, J. Brine,		
H. Tanner, P. Watts	798.75	
Airfares - Melbourne meeting 18/2/83		
C. Betteridge, J. Brine,		
P. Cameron, T. North, P. Ralph,		
O. Richards, M. Sando, P. Watts		
H. Tanner, A. Whitehill	2,981.57	3,780.32

NOTE 3 Conferences		
Tasmania: Accommodation and meals	6,584.00	
Lecturers' fares, bus hire, etc	1,045.54	
Fees refunded	260.00	
Gifts	203.84	
Sundries	180.44	8,273.82
Adelaide: Lecturer's airfares	1,850.80	
Advance - Adelaide	300.00	
Advance - Perth	200.00	2,350.80

NOTE 4 Expenses		
Secretary — Stationery, postage, etc		791.58
Treasurer/Membership Secretary—		
Stationery, postage,		
stamp duty, etc	853.82	
membership cards,		
renewal forms	224.47	
brochures	<u>223.20</u>	1,301.49
NOTE 5 Journal		
Sales		70.35
Expenses -		
Printing	5,311.04	
Postage	629.46	
Typing and photographs	119.90	
Freight	<u>109.88</u>	6,170.28
NOTE 6 Newsletter		
Printing and stationery	1,091.07	
Postage	<u>690.62</u>	1,781.69

AUDIT REPORT

We have audited the books of account and vouchers of The Australian Garden History Society for the period 6th February 1982 to 31st October 1983 and have obtained all the information and explanations required.

We have relied upon the accuracy of the balances as at 5th February 1982, such figures being unaudited.

In our opinion the attached statement of receipts and payments is properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the Australian Garden History Society's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the records kept.

It is noted that the balance on the A.N.Z. (Victoria) Savings Investment Account (No.858.00102) amounting to \$574.93 has not been audited due to the unknown whereabouts of the passbook.

Travis and Travis

(Sgd) A.J. Pierce

A Member of the Firm

Chartered Accountants

Registered under the Public Accountants Registration Act 1945 as amended.

State News

Victoria

A most enjoyable evening was held at the October function, held in the auditorium at the Melbourne Herbarium. Peter Lumley spoke about plant material commonly grown in Australian gardens in the nineteenth century. A number of cultivars which would have been found in Victorian gardens were on display. Diana Morgan from Heritage Roses gave a most interesting talk on species roses which suit our climate. The superb bunch of roses which she used to illustrate the talk was then taken apart, and most blooms went home with a member! (We know of one member who is endeavouring to propagate from her material).

Lesley Butler then presented a collection of fuchsias and showed slides of those on sale; Mrs Smith of Deep Creek Herb Nursery discussed a beautiful tussie-mussie her son had made up for her talk that evening (he is in charge of the kitchen garden at Heide) and went on to discuss herbs and their place in the garden generally.

A wonderful selection of herbs and fuchsias was on sale after the talks, the wine and the cheese.

Wednesday 23rd November was fixed as the date for a meeting to form a Victorian branch committee, and by the time members receive this Journal we hope to have a flourishing committee planning interesting events for 1984.

Sue Ebury read a letter from Brian Lewis, which deplored the state into which the grotto at Werribee Park has been allowed to deteriorate. This matter will be raised at the conference in Adelaide, and it is hoped that something can be done about its restoration. We will keep members informed.

Sue Ebury attended a most enjoyable morning coffee function as a representative of the A.G.H.S. when the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne entertained Miss Margaret Stones M.B.E. Margaret Stones is an eminent botanical artist of international standing, and she told us a little about the work she is doing in England and the United States. The Friends had mounted an impressive display of books containing Margaret Stones' illustrations and also some original paintings.

Tasmania

The following activities are planned for early 1984 —

February — Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens: Childrens' plant activity picnic.

March — Picnic, plant auction, trading table (plants) and plant identification at Palmerston House, Cressy.

Details of these activities will be included in the Tasmanian group's December Newsletter.

Queensland: report from Mrs E.A. Wilson

The potential for this Society to flourish in Queensland has not been fully exploited. There have been no structured formal meetings and at present the interest is maintained on a personal level basically by association with the Landscape Group of the National Trust of Queensland.

Information concerning the Society has been disseminated by way of personal representation to groups and through the literature held at the offices of the National Trust. I think that a person to person approach is the first priority, with interest stimulated through attractive activity. The approach could perhaps be made to the National Trust for formal approval to make use of their facilities: some association with the Trust does seem appropriate although Society information could have more city outlets.

The student group from the Graduate Diploma Course in Landscape Architecture at the Queensland Institute of Technology have a required interest in the history of landscape design and field experience in the conservation and preservation of landscape heritage. Through this group, projects on a limited scale are initiated. Information has been collected and will be sent to the Society for perusal and possible publication.

A meeting in Queensland could be within our capacity, and could provide the catalyst for greater participation in the Australian Garden History Society in this State.

Executive Committee

At a meeting of the Executive Committee in Adelaide last month it was decided that in future members joining the Society after 31st December in any year should pay a half-yearly subscription, viz. \$8 single, \$10 family and \$13 corporate membership, which would take them to the following 30th June. As in the past, members joining after 31st March will be allowed up to three months free membership, i.e. their subscriptions will be valid until 30th June the **following** year.

The definition of family and corporate memberships was also discussed. Family membership covers husband, wife and children up to the age of 16; ordinary membership, on the other hand, covers **one** person only, and is not transferable to other members of the same household. This means that an ordinary member is **not** entitled to take his or her spouse or other relative to a function of the Society which is restricted to members only; this includes the Annual Conference. In the case of corporate membership, up to three representatives will be permitted to attend any function; a corporate member, however, is only entitled to **one** vote at a meeting of the Society or its duly constituted branches.

The Committee ratified rules for the formation and conduct of State branches and these have now been circulated to all concerned.

A South Australian Branch has already been formally constituted and others are expected to follow.

The Committee discussed at some length the Society's role in the listing of historic gardens and its relationship with the National Trusts in this work. It was agreed generally that, insofar as the National Trusts are concerned, the Society should play a supportive role without being directly involved, it being preferable for the Society to have its own listing policy and procedures. Peter Watts is to prepare a paper on this subject which will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

Conservation Guidelines booklet

The booklet "Historic Gardens in Australia; Guidelines for the Preparation of Conservation Plans", referred to in the Chairman's Report, is now available from National Trust bookshops for \$4.50, or may be ordered from the Secretary, P.O. Box 300, Edgecliff, N.S.W. 2027, for \$5.00 including postage, etc; remittances must be enclosed with all orders. Bookshops, Societies and other organizations or institutions requiring bulk copies at wholesale rates may apply to the Secretary.

The booklet sets out the priorities to be followed when preparing a conservation plan, and covers such matters as research, assessing the heritage significance, constraints, plans, and maintenance. Although designed primarily for the owners and managers of existing historic gardens the general principles will prove useful to all those who may wish to recreate a traditional garden.

Membership

Membership	Feb 1982	Oct 1983	% increase
Victoria	169	287	69.8%
N.S.W.	113	241	113.2%
Tasmania	36	120	233.3%
A.C.T.	15	32	113.3%
South Australia	16	50	212.5%
Western Australia	7	14	100.0%
Queensland	5	12	140.0%
Overseas	7	11	57.1%
	<u>368</u>	<u>767</u>	<u>108.4%</u>

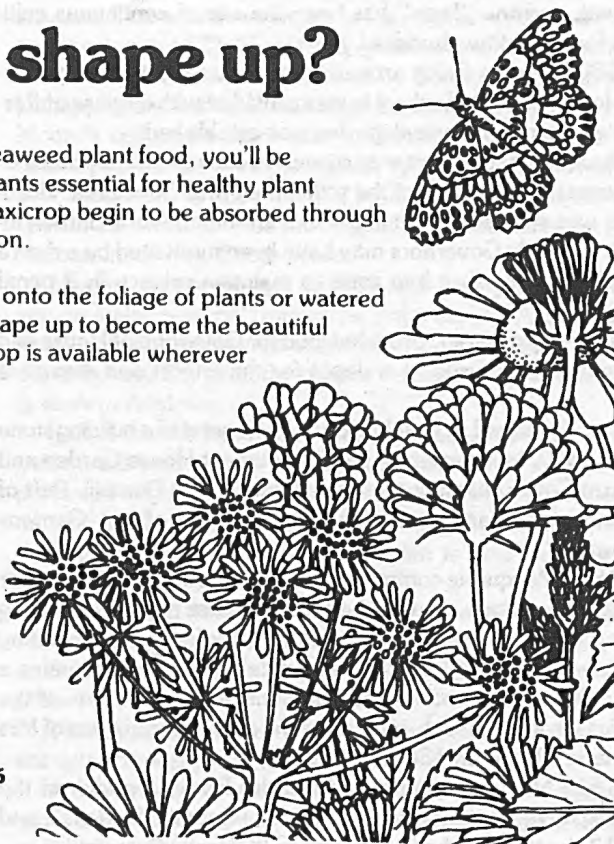
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The Oldest Garden in Australia

by Edwin Wilson

(adapted from an article published in "Australian Horticulture", February 1982)

According to Allen Paterson's admirable criterion for "greatness" (Tim North, "The Australian Garden Journal", June 1983) the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, must surely qualify.

His criterion was "that of combining into a cohesive whole aspects of time past and time present, which one feels (the state of the world permitting) is likely to continue into time future".

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, is the oldest garden in Australia, with its roots going back to the "farm" established by Governor Phillip in July 1788. Phillip established a government farm with "nine acres in corn" in some alluvium to the east of a small stream, which still flows on the surface for the lower part of its course.

Phillip wrote "The principal farm is situated in the next cove to the east of the town, and less than half a mile from it". This falls within the existing boundaries of the Gardens. Later accounts speak of "six acres of wheat, eight of barley, and six of other grain". The first fleet had brought seed from England, South America and South Africa.

From England was brought seed of crop plants, such as wheat and corn. From Rio de Janeiro came plants and seeds of coffee, cocoa, cotton, bananas, oranges, lemons, guavas and the cochineal prickly pear.

The Cape of Good Hope supplied figs, bamboo, sugar cane, apples, quinces and pears.

Thus within the Gardens began the agriculture and horticulture of the continent, as the name "Farm Cove" commemorates today. A similar claim cannot be made for any known area in any other continent, and the "farm" has been the site of continuous cultivation for almost two hundred years.

In 1800 George Caley arrived in the Colony as a botanical collector for Sir Joseph Banks. He was provided with a house at Parramatta, where a botanical garden was established.

Subsequently the farm was moved to Parramatta, because of the comparative sterility of the soil in the Farm Cove area. Horticulture was still carried out in the Government House Garden although the early Governors may have been motivated by a desire to establish a dwelling-free zone to maintain privacy in a penal colony.

A kitchen garden still provided food for Government House and the grounds were used as a depot for the import and export of plants.

It was Governor Lachlan Macquarie who set about building stone walls in 1810, to incorporate the Government House Garden and the Farm Cove cultivations into one Government Domain. Part of the renovated Macquarie Wall still runs east of the Gardens Restaurant.

In 1813 Macquarie commenced a road through the Domain for his wife's recreation, and at the northernmost point overlooking the Harbour a seat was carved out of a rock ledge, commanding fine views. This is called Mrs Macquarie's Chair, and remains a notable Sydney landmark. The traditional foundation date of the Botanic Gardens, as such, is taken as the date of completion of Mrs Macquarie's Road on 13th June 1816.

In 1816 Macquarie appointed Charles Fraser, a soldier of the 46th Regiment, as "Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens", and by 1817 the title had been changed to "Colonial Botanist".

This ranks the Sydney Gardens as being among the oldest of the important Botanic Gardens of the world, being in fact older than most of those in the United States, but not as old as the Botanic Gardens at Oxford, Cambridge, Kew, Edinburgh, or some in Italy (Padua 1533), France, Holland and Sweden (Uppsala 1637). The Sydney Gardens are the third oldest in the Southern Hemisphere, after those at Rio de Janeiro (1808) and Pamplémousses in Mauritius, and they are a year older than the extensive gardens in Bogor, Java.

Charles Fraser had apparently gained his knowledge of plants in the Edinburgh Botanical gardens. He applied himself to his new job with talent and zeal and the Botanic Gardens were well established by 1820, although entry was restricted to "the respectable class of inhabitants" of Sydney Town.

With Allan Cunningham, he accompanied Oxley on the 1817 expedition to the Lachlan and was the sole botanist on Oxley's second (1818) and third (1819) expeditions.

On the third expedition Fraser collected nearly 700 new specimens, notably in the New England region, in the vicinity of Mount Seaview and the Upper Hastings. Oxley described him as indefatigable and noted in his journal that so rich had been the countryside that "indeed our cargo principally consists of plants".

Fraser also made excursions to Van Diemen's Land (1820 and 1827), Norfolk Island and New Zealand (1826), the Swan River in Western Australia (1827) and Moreton Bay (1828) - quite an achievement in those days.

As Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Fraser urged the government to appoint collectors in the new outposts that were being established inland as a result of exploration.

As well as this he obtained plants and seeds through extensive exchange with botanical institutions overseas. New gardens were laid out on the northern side of the Macquarie Wall (Lower Garden) as well as on the southern side (Middle and Upper Gardens), and in 1831 the enlarged and reorganised Gardens were opened to the general public.

Fraser died in 1831. In 1833 Richard Cunningham (brother of the explorer and botanist Allan, who had declined the appointment) arrived to take up the position of Colonial Botanist, reaching Sydney on the same ship that carried the celebrated Busby vine cuttings. From these, grape vines were established and provided more cuttings that were distributed to colonists, in accordance with the policy at the time.

Richard Cunningham did not have time to fulfil the promise of this early industry. In 1835 he was speared to death on Thomas Mitchell's expedition down the Bogan River. In his enthusiasm to collect plants he had wandered too far from the party and "fell into the hands of one of the native tribes".

Allan Cunningham now accepted the position as the new Colonial Botanist and Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens. However, by this time (1837) a Committee of Management had been established and Cunningham found that he was attempting to run an institution that had already been taken over. There was considerable dispute over the distribution of fruit and vegetables to "all-devouring officials".

Cunningham resigned from "the Government cabbage garden" in disgust, and died soon after (1838). He was buried in the old Devonshire Street cemetery, where Sydney's Central Railway Station now stands. His remains were subsequently placed in an obelisk in the Lower Garden, now near to the Gardens Restaurant.

Under a succession of administrators after Cunningham, the Gardens declined botanically and horticulturally. Dr Ludwig Leichhardt applied for the position but was twice refused, partly because of the xenophobic attitudes of the day.



THE GARDEN PALACE - DESTROYED BY FIRE AFTER ONLY THREE YEARS. (Photo: Royal Botanic Gardens collection)

Charles Moore became Director in 1848. In his extraordinarily long period of forty-eight years in charge of the institution, Moore grappled with the problems of poor soil, inadequate water supplies — and pinchpenny Governments — to develop the Gardens into the form that is recognizable today.

Moore travelled widely collecting plants for the Gardens in many districts of New South Wales, and visited Europe on three occasions. He established the basis of the present palm collection as a result of his extensive forays in the Pacific Islands. Dignified trees of various species of *Agathis* (Kauri) are also a legacy from his collecting.

During Moore's time the construction of the Sea Wall was commenced, in 1848. It turned out to be a "thirty years wall", and was not completed until 1878.

In the Annual Report for 1852 Moore laments "the inconvenience which I experienced by the loss of nearly all the workmen acquainted with the duties of the Garden, upon the discovery of Gold in the Colony..."

It is not well known that the first Zoological Society housed its animals in the area of the present Succulent Garden in the 1850s.

In 1864 the Acclimatization Society erected cages to receive birds that they introduced to the Colony, and blackbirds and thrushes were liberated into the Gardens. The English blackbird is still resident here, though not widespread around other parts of Sydney. The aviaries were not finally removed until about 1940.

In 1879 work began on the Garden Palace, in the Inner Domain between Macquarie Street and the boundary of the Gardens at that time. After it was destroyed by fire in 1882 its site was added to the Gardens.

In 1896 Moore was succeeded by Joseph Henry Maiden, who, through his industry and his scientific and civic standing, set the

Gardens on a new level of achievement. Within three years of his taking over from Moore, a new herbarium building was constructed. This was an extension of the original herbarium and office constructed in 1878. Moore had established a herbarium in 1853, which included material collected by Mitchell and Cunningham. Unhappily this material was later dispersed or lost, but many of Moore's collections were sent to Ferdinand von Mueller in Melbourne, where they are preserved. When Maiden moved into his new herbarium in 1899 he had amassed approximately 15,000 specimens, which formed the basis of the collection of the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

Maiden went to Europe in 1900 and managed to secure some very valuable material from some of the earliest Australian collections, including specimens collected in 1770 by Banks and Solander at Botany Bay and other places visited by Captain James Cook in eastern Australia.

Part of the old herbarium building served as a botanical museum (which had been set up by Moore in 1879) with models of plant parts and vegetable products, as well as dried and pickled specimens in black-edged display cases, as was the custom of museum display. Appropriately the same room is now the new Visitor Centre.

Maiden must have been a hard act to follow. The Great Depression and the Second World War were yet to come, and it was not until the fifties that the Gardens went into another positive growth phase.

The Gardens today combine aspects of time past and time present with exciting projections into time future.

A few trees that are remnants of the original vegetation still occur in the Gardens, which today reflect aspects of three centuries of European styles of gardening.

The Botanic Garden of 1816 was laid out in the functional rectangular beds of early European Botanic Gardens, on the site of the first farm.

Tradition has it that the oblong beds of the Middle Garden follow the first furrows ploughed in Australia. A close inspection of Phillip's map suggests that the furrows ran essentially east-west, as do the dominant pathways today.

In this region a series of special plantings, "Plants, Evolution and Man", is being developed, relating to such themes as "Plant Classification", "Plant Growth Forms", and "Economic Plants".

Botanic Gardens Creek still follows the same path that it followed in 1788, but has been restrained with stone. Inflow from its outer catchment has sadly reduced its pristine purity.

At least ninety different species of mature palms can be seen both in large groves and scattered throughout the lawns. Even a few species from equatorial regions thrive here in the southerly location, and the palm collection is recognized as being one of the finer outdoor collections in the world, with some individual plants dating back to the 1830s. It is currently being enriched with more species.

There are close to 7000 different living species, varieties, hybrids and cultivars, collected in the wild or exchanged with Botanic Gardens and Arboreta throughout the world now growing in the Gardens. An active programme of enrichment has been stepped up and will continue over the next decade.

The cosmopolitan flavour of the plantings relates to the historical development of the Gardens, as well as to a continuing policy on the part of Directors, past and present. It is both appropriate and useful that a metropolis looks to the world, while giving some special attention to its own land.

The plantings around the New Building complex are exclusively Australian species. The numerous Australian species are easily picked out by their blue labels, but these are world gardens and the living collection contains a wide range of familiar European plants and other exotics.

The main strength of the Gardens collection of native plants lies in its representation of rainforest species, especially the rainforest trees, and more rainforest species (including a proposed New Caledonian bed) are to be planted.

Many rare and beautiful plants are also maintained and propagated in glasshouses, and their requirements for cultivation are studied.

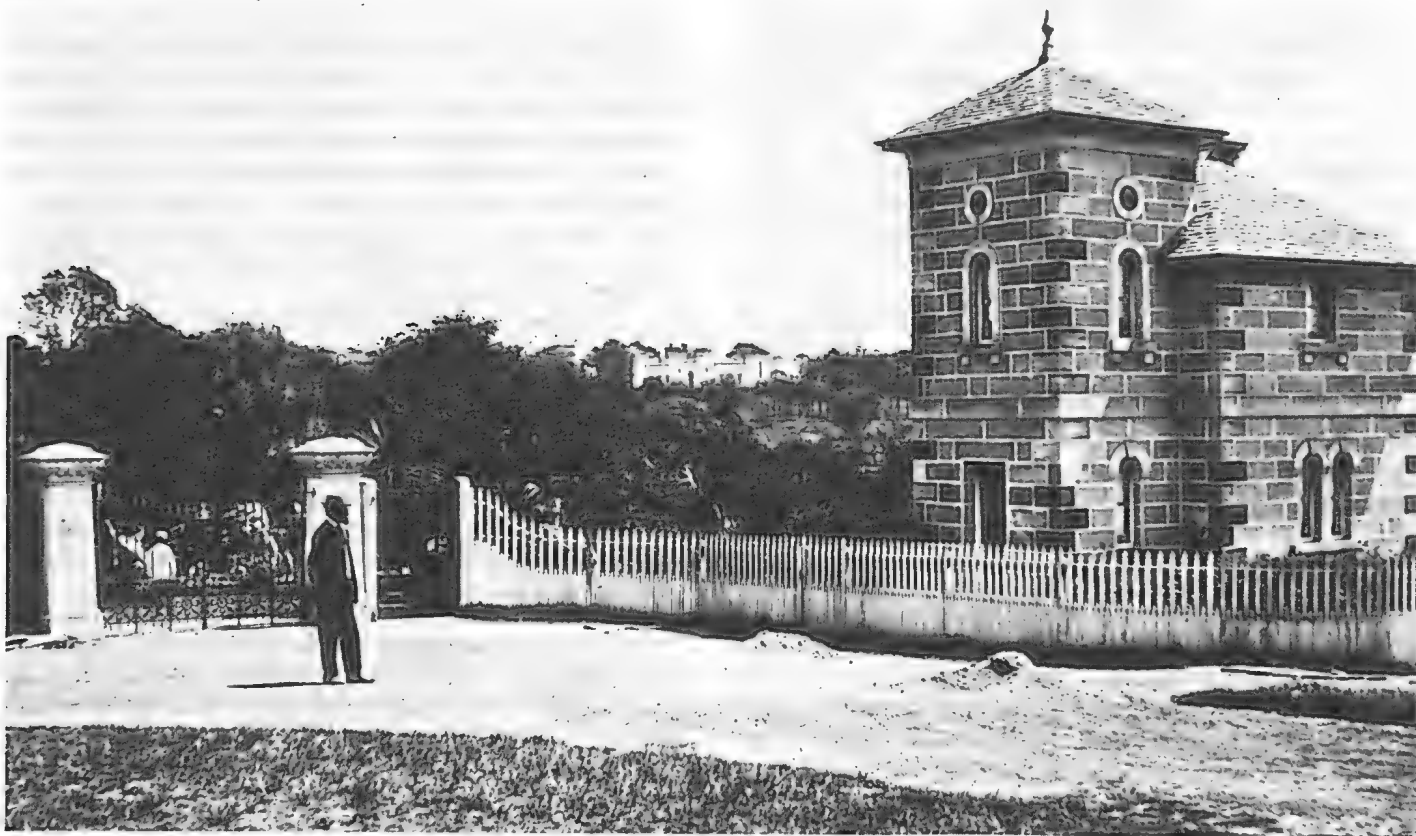
The Pyramid Glasshouse contains many species from the tropical rainforests of Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia and the Americas.

A challenging objective is to build two additional pyramid glasshouses in the region of the one existing, as far as possible with money raised by community support. It is planned that one of the pyramids will contain tropical Australian plants, another will exhibit tropical exotics, while the third will be devoted to ferns and "fern allies".

A new Succulent Garden has been completed. The layout of this Garden reflects the geographical distribution of succulent plants, the vast majority of which occur in Africa and the Americas.

Under the Directorship of Dr Lawrie Johnson a new Herbarium (the Robert Brown Building) was officially opened in 1982, providing for the first time in decades safe and conveniently accessible storage for the specimen collections.

Now it is much easier to curate them and to retrieve the vast store of information they hold. New approaches are now possible



NORTH ENTRANCE TO BOTANIC GARDENS (DATE UNKNOWN) SHOWING WHAT IS NOW THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND.
photo: Royal Botanic Gardens collection.



THE PALM GROVE. CIRCA 1900 : NOTE THE NATTILY DRESSED EMPLOYEE! - photo: Royal Botanic Gardens collection.

with laboratory space and a scanning electron microscope for studies of detailed structures.

A Friends of the Gardens Society has recently been established, as well as a Visitor Centre and Gardens Shop. Guided tours and services in education, plant identification and information provide a resource for those who wish their visit to deepen their understanding of plants and of the living world.

A most exciting project for which funding for accelerated development has just been obtained is the Mount Tomah satellite garden, planned to be operational by the Bicentenary year of 1988.

Mount Tomah is a site of about 31 hectares in the northern part of the Blue Mountains. Deep volcanic soil and the high altitude (1,000 metres) make it very suitable for growing plants of cool temperate climates. Thematic plantings will include a wide spectrum of the Southern Hemisphere temperate flora (including high altitude and high latitude plants from Australia, New Zealand and South America) and also Northern Hemisphere cool-temperate species. The latter will include plantings to highlight spring blooms and the colours of autumn foliage, as well as a varied collection of conifers and other groupings to bring out particular themes.

Closer to home, the complete development, by 1988, of "Plants, Evolution and Man" beds in the region of the first farm in Australia seems an appropriate goal. Here visitors may ponder on the fundamental role of plants in the culture, economy and sustenance of all men. The occasional urban child may be struck with the revelation that beetroot grows in the earth, and peas don't come out of a freezer.

It is vitally important that urban man appreciates his dependence on plants for his very existence on this planet.

As our society becomes more industrialized, man is removed further and further from his source, the earth. A time may come

when computers will reduce his life-work to nanoseconds.

But no one can foretell the future and nothing dates more quickly than the "modern"; the future has a habit of rushing upon us and confronting us with the past.

One thing the computers will not be able to do is to truncate the time taken for a specimen tree to grow. If this is true, then gardens, and especially our Botanic Gardens, which some may see as an anachronistic use of good real estate, will become even more precious.

Nurtured and cared for, the specimen trees in the Gardens will continue to grow and become more valuable as the years pass, providing a vital link with the past, with wonder and beauty, and to a future with hope. In this increasingly plastic and throw-away world such things are treasures.

Even now at the Gardens many a tree is scarcely considered to have come of age until it is at least 100 years old. The living collection represents a great asset, an investment in time that can help to fill some of the emotional needs of the people of Sydney in their search for identity, continuity and their roots in history.

For all these reasons, the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney are, and hopefully will continue to be, one of the great gardens of the world.

(Note: additional information on the Gardens may be obtained from the publication "Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney" available from the Visitor Centre, price \$4.00).



Roadside Ruins of Bygone Days

by W.F. Walker

As one travels along our Tasmanian country roads, particularly the older and more historical routes, numerous sites become evident of the limited remains of the earlier settlements of the pioneers. Whilst in some cases these situations are highlighted by old buildings, piles of stones, rubble, and European trees, there are other occasions where there is no evidence of any buildings on the landscape. Often the only remains of past civilisation will be an exotic tree or group of shrubs already overgrown with the generation of native vegetation.

The presence of an isolated oak, elm, poplar, pear tree, plum, mulberry, etc. etc., or even some other isolated and lonely looking specimens, may immediately spark off all kinds of speculation and imagination. These peculiarities do necessitate some careful investigation in order to obtain some factual details.

Some of these old landscape ruins, isolated exotic trees and vegetation, have valuable information of historical importance in the future.

The collation of this information appears to be a very worthwhile heritage exercise for the Tasmanian members of the Australian Garden History Society. The onus does appear to be on this present generation to endeavour to unravel such mysteries for future generations. Not a great deal of this early history has been adequately recorded and, therefore, it is essential to glean as many facts and details from around the countryside before it becomes lost for all time. Local inhabitants can obtain some facts from earlier relatives and so these folk should be contacted wherever possible.

At present an active committee is involved with the restoration and re-introduction of vegetation along the Midland Highway between Oatlands and Launceston. This committee is anxious to pinpoint the various historical sites along this highway so that the areas can be isolated and adequately preserved for all time. Any information concerning these sites and particularly historical details would be of valuable assistance to the committee.

Tasmanian members of the Australian Garden History could make a very worthwhile contribution to this exercise by locating various sites throughout the entire Tasmanian countryside. Local factual information can be gleaned "on the spot" from local residents, Council and Church records.

(Note: the above is reproduced, by permission, from Newsletter No 5 of the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. The Tasmanian Branch Committee wholeheartedly supports the project, and is anxious to assemble this valuable information. Some of the exotic plantings in Tasmania could be some of the oldest to be found in Australia. Mr Walker will be pleased to assist with the identification of trees and plant material, as well as with the overall collation of any factual historical information: his address is 5 Primrose Place, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005 tel: 002 25 2126).

(Editor's Note: While the above article refers only to Tasmania, readers in other States may also feel that this could be a fascinating and worthwhile project).

Through the Eye of a Needle: 16th Century Gardens

by Diana Pockley

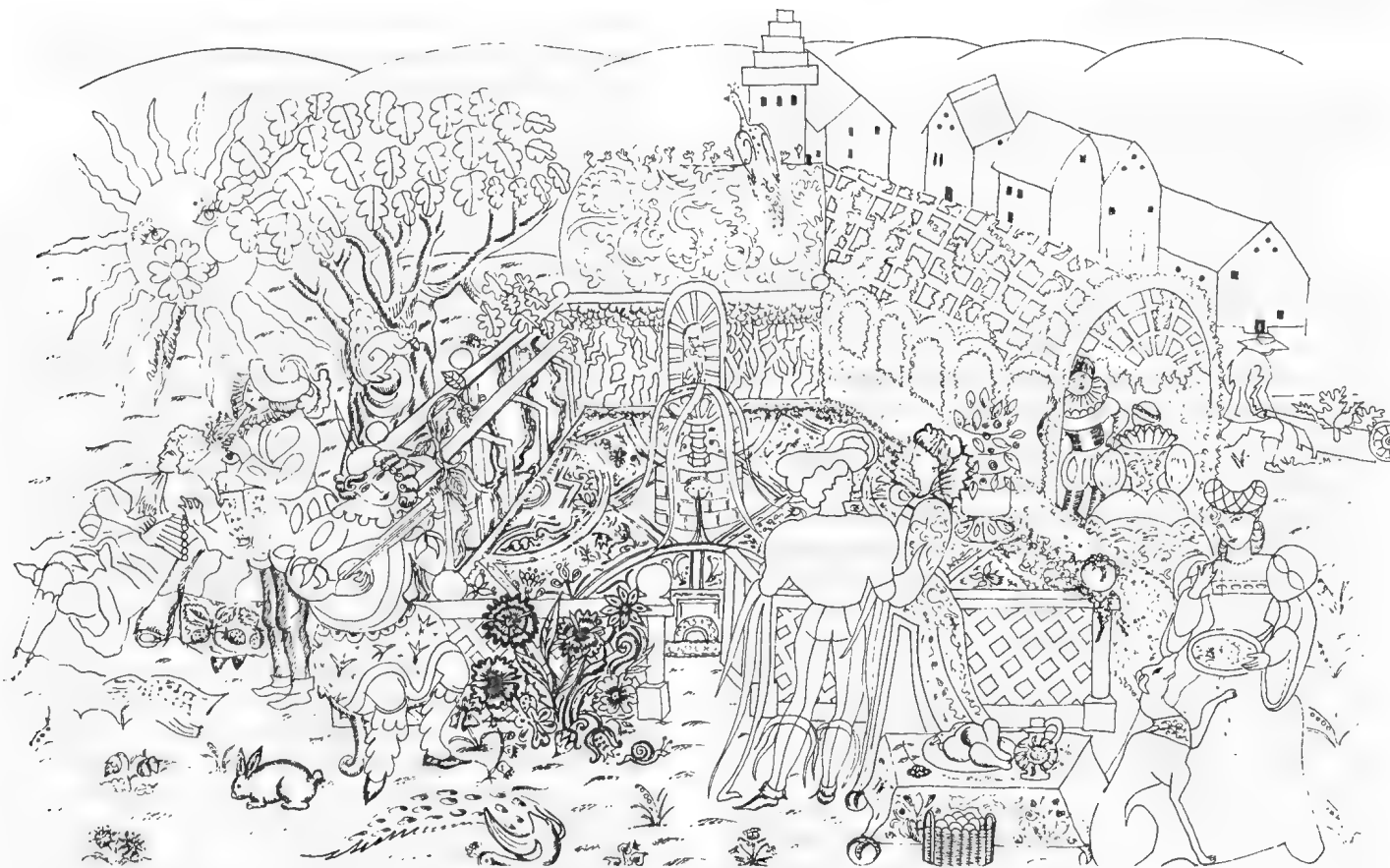
It is only through the needle's eye, as it were, that we can catch a tantalising glimpse of sixteenth century gardens. None of these gardens remain to day, only reconstructions. All were destroyed or altered beyond recognition by the changing garden fashions of the following centuries.

After the great period of the Opus Anglicanum, when splendid vestments were stitched by members of the Broderers' Guild (all men), the country was devastated for two hundred years by, first, the Black Death, and then the long Wars of the Roses, so there was little or no inclination for creative work of any kind.

But when Henry Tudor brought peace to the land, England was ready for a true Renaissance.

With the rise of the new merchant classes, increasing wealth and a sense of settled prosperity, new houses were built and, for the first time, they were unfortified. Gardens were now leaving the security of the castle walls and monastic cloisters, and were being made on the land surrounding the house. They were still enclosed, but this was more to protect the plants from the hungry deer and rabbits which roamed the fields and woods beyond. The Elizabethans were enraptured with all that they could now see and enjoy at close quarters, and with the import of silk and metal threads, the manufacture of fine steel needles and improvements to linen weaving, the women were ready to capture Nature in all her forms, to decorate furnishings in order to make their cold and draughty houses more comfortable. Bed hangings, table carpets, cushions and curtains, were all covered with embroidery to bring bright echoes of summer and sunshine into the long winter days indoors. As Barnaby Googe says in 1577 "Your Parlors and Banqueting Houses . . . all bedecked with pictures of Beautiful Flowres and Trees, that you may not only feede your eyes with the beholding of the true and lively Flowre, but also delight your selfe with the counterfaite in the midst of Winter . . ." Historical, biblical and allegorical stories were the main subjects for the house furnishings, and incongruously the characters wore full Elizabethan dress, the farthingale and ruff, doublet and hose, portraying their parts in gardens as a setting for the old legends.

The designs of the gardens are therefore revealed to us in these contemporary embroidered scenes. The simpler gardens take the monastic form of a central pool or fountain surrounded by a cruciform or chessboard pattern of flower beds. These are bordered with box, lavender, thyme or rosemary, which often evolved into an intricate interwoven pattern to make the knot gardens so loved by the Elizabethans in addition to their complex mazes. The whole parterre is surrounded by a shady alley formed by wooden arches known as "carpenters' work". These are covered with climbing plants such as honeysuckle, — "Where Honeysuckle ripened by the Sun, Forbid the Sun to enter" (Shakespeare), roses, jessamine, and the like. Window-like openings are left, through which the countryside can be viewed outside, and the plants in the beds within . . . "The Commodities of these Alleys and Walks serve to good purposes, the one that the owner may diligently view the prosperities of his herbes and flowres, the other for the delight and comfort of his wearied mind, which he may by himself or in fellowship of his friends conceyve, in the delectable sightes and fragrant smelles of the flowres". So wrote Thomas Hill. Often a Mount was raised from soil, wood or stone, "harmoniously wrought", so that from its height the hunt could be watched in the distant woods or



AN ELIZABETHAN GARDEN - A fantasy, designed and drawn by Wendy Littlewood.

just the fair prospect of the countryside viewed beyond the garden. A few of these still remain in a rudimentary state, for example at Cranborne Manor in Dorset. Trellis work covered in vines can also be seen, and an elaborate fountain fed by a stream is almost always part of the stitched garden scene.

The Elizabethans loved being outside in their gardens, and these embroideries capture their gaiety and pleasure. We see them at their revels, dancing and singing, feasting and making music on their lutes, viols and flutes, and dallying in the sheltered arbours. In fine weather, it seems, all social activity took place in the garden. Embroidery has preserved these vanished pleasaunces for us, revealing the love of lively colours, scents and sounds.

The flowers in these particular embroideries are difficult to identify, being so small, except for those greatly enlarged in the foreground of the work. We know from the writings of the time that they were grown for their curative powers as well as for their scent to be used indoors, as sixteenth century drainage systems were very primitive.

We know too that they were mainly wild flowers, with a few exotics brought home by the intrepid sailors of the time. The Elizabethan woman was extremely observant and her flowers were stitched as naturalistic sprays, or slips as they were called, on the silks and velvets of her clothes, cushions, etc. We can find on these almost every well known flower from her garden, mixed flowers that are "so comelily and orderly placed in our borders and squares, that none looking thereon cannot but wonder to see what Nature, corrected by Art, can do". Her work was usually covered with a strong coiling pattern of stems terminating in leaves or fruit and enclosing flowers, insects, birds and animals in happy abandon with no thought as to scale. A snail as big as a peacock or a caterpillar

as big as a lion. If a resident or itinerant designer was not available, she traced or pounced her designs from the bestaries or herbals of the time.

The Broderers' Guild, still a purely male province, was revived but now its work consisted mainly of large hangings, tents and heraldic work. We learn from the testimony of household accounts in which the purchase of threads of many kinds was noted, and rarely the purchase of an embroidered article, that it was these Elizabethan women stitching in their homes up and down the countryside who have left us not only a record of their gardens and flowers, but also the wonderful legacy of the second great period of English embroidery. It was they who started in such a happy way the revival of a nearly dead craft which has continued to occupy the fingers of countless women since the days of the first Queen Elizabeth.

(References: History of Gardening (Huxley); The Garden (Berrall); Shakespeare's Flowers (Kerr); Flowers and trees of Tudor England (Putman); The English Garden (Fleming and Gore); English Domestic Needlework (Hughes); English Historical Embroidery (Snook); English Embroidery (V and A Museum); Flowers in English Embroidery (V and A Museum); Embroidered Gardens (Beck); Masterpieces of Embroidery (Claburn).



BOOK REVIEWS

Green Thoughts, a writer in the garden

by Eleanor Perenyi; published by Allen Lane;
recommended retail price \$19.95

reviewed by Tim North

This is not a new book, for it was first published by Random House in the U.S. in 1981, and by Allen Lane in Great Britain in 1982.

It has not, however, so far as I know, been reviewed to any great extent in this country, which is my excuse for doing so now.

Even if you have a prejudice against American gardening books — which would be understandable — you should read this one, for it is very good indeed. Few good writers have been good gardeners, and if they have tried to write about gardening have seldom done so in a compelling manner. Vita Sackville-West did, but Eleanor Perenyi is not in the same genre as Vita. One feels that she would be happier (though they would have been a totally incongruous pair) in the company of Canon Ellacombe, for she writes about her Connecticut garden with the same meticulous observation, the same desire to be always learning something, that led the good Canon to write about his in Gloucestershire. Her scholarship, too, almost bears comparison with his, though hers is of a more earthy kind. But the comparison ends there, for Mrs Perenyi is nothing if not strongly individualistic, with her own rather fixed notions and prejudices. She does not suffer fools, or rogues; she complains of the “long procession of incompetents, dumbbells and eccentrics, young and old, foreign and domestic, who have worked for me, and I wonder how I and the garden have survived their ministrations”.

She is a confirmed organic gardener. J.I. Rodale's magazine, “Organic Gardening and Farming”, she says, changed her life, but she has continued to read it for thirty-five years because its editors “don't believe that anything to do with plants can be an exact science, in that we have found out all that we need to know”. Gardening, to her, is a continual process of learning. “People who blame their failures on not having green fingers have not done their homework; gardening is a vocation, like any other - a calling if you like, not a gift from Heaven; one acquires the necessary skills and knowledge to do it successfully or one doesn't.”

On some subjects she holds strong opinions. She fears for the birds' future - feeding birds, she says, induces “good feelings, like sending CARE parcels to poor countries”. She has few good words to say about modern HT roses, admitting that her favourite rose is made of solid gold, adorned with a single cabochon sapphire. And she has this to say about present day plant breeders — “their techniques may be producing too many Athenians, while disdaining the Spartans, and that could be a very bad idea”.

This book is a series of essays, some very short, some quite long, all arranged in alphabetical order. It starts with Annuals and finishes with Woman's Place; in between we have a miscellany on beans, birds, failures, fennel, hedges, help, lawns, longevity, onions, origins, poisons, poppies, toads and tomatoes, and much more.

It is a book to dip into, but even a dip will be a pleasure, bringing forth at least one new idea, one original thought — that is the sort of book this is. My advice — go out straight away and buy a copy.

Historic Gardens of Victoria

a reconnaissance by Peter Watts; edited by Margaret Barrett; published by Oxford University Press,
recommended retail price \$40.00

reviewed by John Patrick

Neither Peter Watts, the author of this book, nor Margaret Barrett, its editor, need any introduction to readers of *The Australian Garden Journal*. Their joint interest in and sensitivity for the historic gardens of Victoria is evident in this most notable result yet of the studies sponsored in each State by the Australian Heritage Commission to locate and record information about Australia's garden heritage. It cannot have been easy to complete the final stages of the work, with Peter in Sydney and Margaret in Melbourne.

The book has four sections; an introduction, which outlines the historic gardens study, its origins and the techniques established in the survey process; Historic Gardens in focus, a brief history of the garden in Victoria; Victoria's Garden Heritage, an analysis and account of the different types of gardens created in the State; and Going, going - a rather sad account of the present condition of these highly significant pieces of art.

Clearly a study of this type needed to establish a rational basis of assessment. Many sites reveal fragments of a garden now largely lost, and there are owners who, in their own minds, possess gardens of considerable significance which in real terms lack historical value. The successful development of an objective method of garden assessment was of great importance. The use of the system by others has revealed very clear correlation between assessments. This means that, in future, gardens considered for inclusion may be reliably evaluated using this system.

Historic Gardens in focus sets the gardens of Victoria within their historic context. Little new material is offered in this nonetheless valuable account, which considers the gardens within an international picture of nineteenth century horticulture. Sadly, the book mostly explores design - rather than plant-related aspects of gardening. Since plants and their management are a major part of any study of gardens greater attention should have been given to this aspect. The concise text in this section reveals the lack of anything more than basic research undertaken on gardens in Victoria. It is to be hoped that the text will stimulate deeper and more academic work in this area.

Victoria's Garden Heritage divides gardens in the survey into categories; botanic gardens, suburban gardens, front gardens, cottage gardens, country estates, and so on. The presentation of this information is rather fragmented. Perhaps the gardens should have been arranged in an order of increasing or decreasing size, or arranged in an historic theme. Such a presentation would certainly allow a greater analysis of their historical and social significance while still permitting analysis of their structure and design.

The highlight of the book is the illustrations, which are a fascinating summary of the Victorian garden. They include not only period and recent photographs, but many other aspects of garden history, including changing styles of garden use and maintenance together with a range of garden plans. Wherever possible the differences between the garden in its heyday and its present condition are illustrated. Such comparisons reveal a range of attitudes to historic gardens, from the care and attention lavished on some properties by owners, to others suffering from decay and neglect.

It is the threat from the latter which provides the impetus for Going, going... After making a case for the retention of historic gardens, Peter Watts identifies threats to their survival, many of

which derive from rising costs, including rising taxes, rates and cost of labour, as well as a lack of any clear methodology for the care of historic gardens. The greatest need is for official recognition of the costs and values of historic gardens so that government funding and initiatives might assist with adequate maintenance and consultative help.

The greatest threat is to those larger gardens which are privately owned. Rising costs will inevitably take their toll, either by reducing the area for which care and attention is provided, or by simplifying maintenance and the detail of the garden so that they offer a bland pastiche of their true selves. Governments can no longer look to private individuals to sustain the quality of these gardens without assistance. The time has come for aid, derived from the public purse, and tax concessions, which will help to provide expertise and resources for the continued well-being of our garden heritage. Imaginative programmes of development need to be contemplated which will help the gardens become self-financing.

Historic Gardens of Victoria is a welcome addition to our bookshelves. I regret that it is only a reconnaissance, for there is undoubtedly room for a more detailed study based on fuller research. The danger is that such a work as this may delay the arrival of the more detailed work by satisfying the market for several years. On the other hand there is an excellent chance for others to take up Peter's course and to undertake research in individual fields of the subject, providing us with a more thorough picture of all aspects of Victorian garden history.

Sadly, my major criticism is with the publisher. While typographical errors appear to have been avoided, factual errors are very few, and the overall design by Alison Forbes is very pleasing, the format of the book is most frustrating. Bookshelves are simply not designed to accommodate books of this shape. They are difficult to handle and always seem to place stress on the binding.

Towards an Australian Garden

by Howard Tanner: published by Valadon Publishing/
George Allen and Unwin; recommended retail price
\$29.95

reviewed by Tim North

The aim of this book, so the author says, is "to provide a framework for the use of native and introduced species in a setting which reflects both European influences and the natural place". The publishers phrase it rather differently; they say "Howard Tanner's new book provides a contemporary analysis of Australian gardens and their design. His chief objective is to establish an appropriate philosophy for new Australian gardens".

Both very laudable aims - in fact any book that sets out the basic principles of garden design is a godsend at the present time. However, the author's assertion that there has not been an important book on garden design published in Australia since Edna Walling's "Gardens in Australia, their design and care" in 1943 is perhaps a little unfair on her disciple, Ellis Stones, whose "Australian Garden Design" was published in 1971: both books, however, are now out of print, which makes the appearance of this book a welcome event.

Howard Tanner, as an architect, brings a practised, discerning and perceptive eye to the art of garden making. That this book contains little that is new does not necessarily detract from it, since the fact that many garden owners need to be instructed in, or at

least reminded of, the basic principles of design is all too painfully obvious.

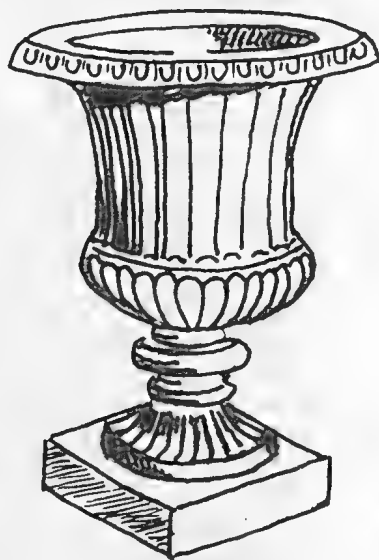
This book covers not only basic principles, like integration into the existing landscape, garden spaces, openings and vistas; it moves on to different types of gardens — bush gardens, woodland gardens, walled gardens, and so on — and then to garden details, like hedges, walls, steps, pergolas and fountains, and special functions, such as picking gardens, kitchen gardens, swimming pools and "lawn sports".

Accomplished gardeners may find all this rather bland, but those who lack experience or special knowledge will learn a great deal from it. Such people will need, however, to approach the plant lists, at the back of the book, with caution, for these give no indication of the plants' climatic range or other special requirements. There are also some rather curious omissions; for example under "Perfumed trees, vines and shrubs" *Viburnum x burkwoodii* is mentioned, but not *V. carlesi*, which happens to be one of its parents and which is, arguably, the finest perfumed shrub in cultivation. Then, under the heading "Perfumed plants" *Lilium candidum*, which is now seldom grown owing to its susceptibility to viral and fungal diseases, is the only *Lilium* species to rate a mention.

Richard Stringer's photographs, which are a major feature of the book, are used to good purpose to illustrate the various points that the author makes.

While it goes a long way towards fulfilling its stated aims, it is not, perhaps, the definitive book on Australian garden design. This, I believe, we still await.

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Sydney Parkinson, Artist of Cook's Endeavour Voyage

edited by D.J. Carr; published by the British Museum (Natural History) in association with the Australian National University Press, Canberra; recommended retail price \$49.95.

reviewed by Tim North

Only rarely does the publication of a book about plants deserve to be termed an *event*. This book is undeniably an *event*, and at the price truly remarkable value.

During a period of a little less than two and a half years, from the beginning of the voyage — from a scientific point of view probably the most important voyage of all time — to his untimely death on the way home at the age of 26, Parkinson made some 276 finished and 676 unfinished drawings of plants, 83 finished and 212 unfinished drawings of animals, and 100 or so other drawings of people, scenes and boats. He was the first artist to set foot on Australian soil and the first to draw the Australian landscape.

The story of how these drawings were finished under Banks' supervision, engraved onto copper plates — but never published; how they laid in the British Museum (Natural History) for more than a century, and how a selection of them are now being printed by a most meticulous process, is now well known.

Little research has been done on Parkinson's work, particularly his animal drawings, but a precious selection from his work is beautifully presented in this book.

William Blunt evaluates Parkinson's work as a scientific artist, and experts on the flora of the various regions covered explain and comment on their selection of the botanical drawings.

You may not be able to afford the \$74,250 price tag on the 738 plates now being published, and even if you could you would be unlucky, as every set is already subscribed. But this book affords a glimpse at the treasures now being revealed to the public eye for the first time. It is a handsome book, an outstanding book; for anyone with a genuine love of fine things, and plants in particular, I can think of no nicer Christmas gift.



Growing Grevilleas in Australia and New Zealand

by Don Burke; published by Kangaroo Press

reviewed by Tim North

Why a book on Grevilleas? The author poses this question as the title of his first chapter. Fortunately what follows provides an adequate answer and a complete justification for the book having been written.

Grevilleas have established themselves as the most popular single plant group in our diverse natural flora, the most colourful, the most variable, and possibly the easiest to grow.

Hybridizing readily in the wild, and even more readily in cultivation, their popularity has led to a multiplicity of hybrid and cultivar names, many of them duplicated, which to the average home gardener is confusing. One thing this book does is to clear up a good deal of that confusion.

But it does a lot more than that, for Don Burke not only knows his subject inside out, but also has a very practical, very sensible, and sometimes original approach to the craft of horticulture. For example, he tells us that pruning Grevilleas will help the plants to live longer; Grevilleas left unpruned tend to become prematurely senescent, and senile plants are just not worth keeping. Then, staking a plant weakens it; an unstaked plant blows about in the wind and develops a strong trunk. On the other hand I would question his advice about taking soil samples to a local nursery; in my experience very few nurseries have the time, the facilities or even the expertise to tell you much about your soil that you didn't already know, let alone do a pH test.

Don Burke writes in a down to earth, almost racy style, so his occasional lapses into vernacular do nothing to detract from the book — in fact one comes to expect them. However, tighter editing could have eliminated one or two plain grammatical errors.

The "usage lists" of Grevilleas for different situations and soils, and the "Lists of Species and Hybrids" are as comprehensive as one could wish, but it is in the chapter on propagation that the author excels. Here he demonstrates clearly his detailed knowledge of his subject and manages to explain the various skills involved in simple, easily understood terms. The account of how Grevilleas are pollinated by birds is quite fascinating.

The illustrations are generally good, although as a guide to identification some of the colour prints are unhelpful.

This book is another in the already very successful series published by Kangaroo Press, a series that should put that firm well in the forefront of publishers of books on gardening. Like its fellows in the series, it is a book that will appeal to beginners and experienced gardeners alike, and that alone says a great deal.

There are Grevilleas for every garden, for every climate, every situation, and this book will tell you just about everything you will want to know about them.



Carnivorous Plants

by Gordon Cheers; published by Carnivor and Insectivor Plants, Diamond Creek, Vic.; recommended retail price \$7.95

reviewed by Tim North

Carnivorous plants are, without doubt, among the most bizarre members of the plant kingdom, remarkable examples of what may be a strange evolutionary quirk. They may not, of course, appeal to every gardener though anyone who professes a genuine interest in plants should, at least, give them passing attention. They are enjoying a vogue at the present time, but as the author reminds us they were popular too in Victorian times, when no glasshouse was considered complete without a *Nepenthes* hanging from the rafters.

Gordon Cheers has been growing carnivorous plants for eight years, and for the past four years has been running a carnivorous plant wholesale nursery. His book is full of practical advice and will be a "must" for anyone wanting to grow these plants. The various plants are simply but adequately described, including their different "trapping" mechanisms. The colour illustrations are generally very good and each chapter begins with a world map showing the natural distribution of the plants described.

Julie Keegan's Garden Lovers Tour of English Gardens departing June 22nd, 1984

Friday June 22: Australia/Singapore.

Saturday June 23: Free day in Singapore. Depart evening to U.K.

Sunday June 24: Arrive Heathrow in morning. Drive to Oxford (Randolph Hotel).

Monday June 25: Free morning. Afternoon Rousham House (William Kent Garden).

Tuesday June 26: Free morning. Afternoon Bamsley House (Mrs Rosemary Verey).

Wednesday June 27: Morning visit Hidcote (National Trust). Luncheon. Kiftgate Court (Mrs D. Binney).

Thursday June 28: Free morning. Afternoon Pusey House (Mrs M. Hornby).

Friday June 29: Visit Oxford College Gardens. Afternoon Sezincote (Mrs D. Peake).

Saturday June 30: Free day - Drive to Bath (1½ hours). Stay Francis Hotel.

Sunday July 1: Morning Stourhead (National Trust). Picnic luncheon. Afternoon American Museum (Bath).

Monday July 2: Morning Essex House Badminton (Mrs A. Lees Milne). Dower House (Lady Caroline Somerset).

Tuesday July 3: East Lambrook Manor (Garden planted by Margery Fish). Tintinhull House (National Trust).

Wednesday July 4: Visit Gardens designed by Gertrude Jekyll, Hestercombe. Barrington Court.

Thursday July 5: Visit Thatched Cottage and lunch in garden. Afternoon visit Garden designed by Lanning Roper. Village of Great Bedwyn.

Friday July 6: Cranborne Manor (Marchioness of Salisbury). Afternoon Mottisfont Rose Garden (National Trust). Night Hotel Romsey.

Saturday July 7: Free morning. Visit Broadlands (former home of Lord Mountbatten).

Sunday July 8: Drive to Rye. Free George Hotel.

Monday July 9: Free morning. Afternoon Great Dixter. House Garden (Christopher Lloyd).

Tuesday July 10: Free morning. Visit Sissinghurst Garden (National Trust).

Wednesday July 11: Free morning. Horsted Place Gardens (Lady Rupert Nevill).

Thursday July 12: Return to London. En Route. Visit Chartwell (former home of Winston Churchill).

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A Book List for Christmas

compiled by Neil Robertson, The Bookshop of Margareta Webber, 15 McKillop Street, Melbourne

Botanical Latin, by William T. Stearn (3rd edition), \$30.00
We Made a Garden, by Margery Fish (new edition), Faber, \$9.95

The Royal Horticultural Society's Concise Encyclopaedia of Practical Gardening, Mitchell Beazley, \$35.00

The Concise Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants, by Kenneth A. Beckett, Orbis, \$25.00

Old-fashioned Flowers to Grow To-day, by Lys de Bray, Oxford Illustrated Press, \$29.95

An Axe, a Spade, and Ten Acres, by George Courtauld, Secker & Warburg, \$23.50

British Garden Statues, by Dr David Jarrett, Arlington, \$35.00

Secrets of the Walled Garden; a Calendar of Gardener's Lore, by Susan Campbell, Blandford, \$25.00

Private Gardens of France, by Anita Pereire and Gabrielle van Zuylen, Weidenfeld, \$75.00

Old Cottage Garden Flowers; in Quest of their Origins, by Roger Banks, World's Work, \$27.95

The John Tradescants, by Sheila Leith Ross, P.Owen, \$36.00

A Victorian Garden; the Making of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, by Ballard, Duckworth, \$87.50

The Gardener's Almanac, by John Evelyn, edited by Rosemary Verey, Scolar, \$85.00

Roses for English Gardens and Colour Schemes for the Flower Garden, by Gertrude Jekyll (now published in paperback form by Penguin), \$17.95 each

Gardens for Small Country Houses, (paperback), MacMillan, \$17.95

Growing Old-fashioned Roses in Australia and New Zealand, by Trevor Nottle, Kangaroo Press, \$14.95

Cottage Gardens in Australia, by Peter Cuffley, Five Mile Press, \$24.95

Towards an Australian Garden, by Howard Tanner, Valadon, \$29.95

The King's Garden, by Marguerite Duval, U/Virginia, \$29.95

Stately Gardens of Britain, by Thomas Hinde, Ebury, \$39.95

The Wild Garden, by William Robinson, (paperback), Century, \$12.95

Flowering Plants in Australia, by Morley and Toelken, Rigby, \$65.00

The Uncommon Garden, by Joan Law-Smith, National Trust (Vic) Women's Committee, \$25.00

The Lore and Legends of Flowers, by Crowell, illustrated by Ophelia Dowden, \$21.50

Sydney Parkinson - Artist of Cook's Endeavour Voyage, edit. D.J. Carr, British Museum (Natural History) in association with A.N.U.P., \$49.95



More books

Reviews of the following books have had to be held over until the next issue:

The Uncommon Garden, by Joan Law-Smith

Cottage Gardens in Australia, by Peter Cuffley.

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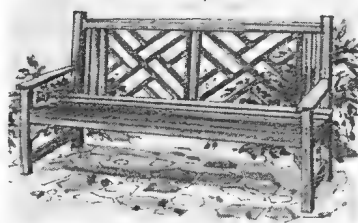
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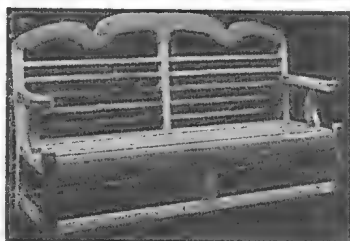
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The Jonquil-Tazetta Group of Narcissus

by Trevor Nottle

I was very interested to read of Greg Keighery's problems with the Jonquil-Tazetta group of the genus *Narcissus* ("Garden Escapes", Australian Garden Journal Vol 2 No 8, pp 148-151). I have shared the same confusion for many years, and after a good deal of searching believe I have finally brought some sort of order to the group, at least in my own mind.

From Keighery's descriptions I feel sure that the varieties he knows in the naturalized state in Western Australia are the same as those found in South Australia and the temperate eastern states. The basic problems in identifying individuals in the Jonquil-Tazetta group are the lack of explicit published material, and a profound ignorance and confusion concerning the group which exists among gardeners in general. Many knowledgeable gardeners treat the group with disdain, an attitude which acts against clarification and greater appreciation of these hardy plants.

The lack of adequate published material seems to have come about because most members of the group are not hardy in the traditional daffodil growing areas of England and Holland, this trait rendering them relatively unimportant for trade purposes, either as cut flowers or bulbs. The bulbs are certainly in demand for forcing as potted plants, but when compared with the quantities of daffodils grown annually Jonquils and Tazettas are not important.

Likewise in gardens daffodils have always been looked on as more important and desirable than their multi-flowered relatives. A European cultural bias operates too, daffodils featuring among

the flowers mentioned by Shakespeare, the poets and herbalists. In contrast the Tazettas were highly regarded in China, representing qualities of renewal and the New Year.

In temperate areas where daffodils may not prove satisfactory due to warm climatic conditions, the Tazettas are generally found thriving in gardens and naturalized over wide areas. In California, the coastal areas of the south-eastern United States, the Channel Islands, New Zealand, Cape Province in South Africa, and the mild settled parts of Australia the Tazettas are common naturalized exotics. The problem is to identify the different sorts!

The first objective is to separate Jonquils from Tazettas. A visual separation is quite easily achieved. Jonquils have rounded (in cross section) leaves which are dark green in colour, tapering to a fine point - hence the old European name of "rush-leav'd Jonquil". The bulbs are generally small compared to others of the *Narcissus* tribe, and the tunics are shiny, transparent and a rich brown colour. The flowers are small - 1.2 cm or less - and in shades of deep golden yellow. Several varieties may be found naturalized in the eastern states in sunny sites, which do not dry out in summer. Two fairly commonly found Jonquils are *Narcissus odorus rugulosus*, all gold with broadly flattened cups (the Campernella), and *Narcissus juncifolius*, with starry all gold flowers (the Chive-leaved Jonquil). Much less frequent is the lovely double form *Narcissus odorus plenus*. A treasured double dwarf form is "Queen Anne's Double Jonquil" ("Pencrebar" in Australia). The Jonquils are natives of the high wet meadows of Spain and Portugal.

Tazettas are a much more variable group with a wide distribution, from China, Japan, Afghanistan, Turkey and around the Mediterranean. While the overall size may vary markedly, from

the diminutive *Narcissus canaliculatus* to the massive *Narcissus orientalis* the general features are grey-green leaves, which are broad with bluntly rounded tips. The bulbs, compared with other *Narcissus*, are usually large, with transparent light brown tunics conspicuously veined.

The most commonly found form is the cream, starry-petalled kind with a light yellow corona. This, I believe, is *Narcissus tazetta* "Italicus". Similar in colour, and almost as common is the broader petalled form which I think is "Grand Emperor". Less common is a white, broad petalled variety with a clear yellow cup. A strong grower with large heads of flowers and very large, many nosed bulbs, it is probably *Narcissus tazetta* "Grand Monarque". Mrs Ethel Breen, of J.N.Hancock and Co., has distributed this variety from time to time as *Narcissus tazetta* "Orientalis". Quite common is a weak stemmed double form which has large outer petals of creamy-white and a confused centre of creamy-white and orange-gold segments. This I believe is *Narcissus tazetta* "Double Roman", and I am certain it is Mr Keighery's double Tazetta. He mentions *Narcissus* "Cheerfulness" as a possibility, but this is a recent development which has small clusters (4 to 6 blooms) of water-lily type flowers. Similar, but with more robust growth and many more blooms per stem is "Erlicheer", a sport which occurred in New Zealand.

Narcissus papyraceus, or "Paperwhite", is written up with several forms, e.g. "Scilly White" and "Minor Paperwhite", but I cannot differentiate them from the descriptions I have available.

Rarely, naturalized clumps of small flowered, all-white Tazettas are found, especially in damp, heavy soils. Floral differences are small, the most significant differences being found in the bulbs.

Plants with very large, dark brown bulbs are most likely *Narcissus pachybolbos* which comes from Algeria. The small white flowers have broad petals, bluntly pointed with short cups. Similar at first sight is *Narcissus panizzianus*, but closer inspection will show the petals are more pointed and generally closely resembling a slighter version of the common "Paperwhite". The bulbs are average.

Occasionally one finds clumps of naturalized Tazettas which have broad white petals and pale cream cups which fade almost white after a few days. This is most likely "Grand Primo". Everyone will know "Soleil d'Or" with its cheery yellow and orange flowers, but every so often a paler form, with deep cream petals and yellow cups, is seen. It agrees with descriptions of "Grand Primo Citroniere".

One other Tazetta is found from time to time. It has grey-green foliage and large clusters of small blooms with slightly twisted white petals and bright golden yellow incurved cups. I feel this comes close to descriptions of *Narcissus tazetta* ssp. *lacticolor*.

From these varieties have come all the lovely hybrid garden forms which flaunt their large and brilliant bunches of flowers in our spring gardens - varieties with such evocative names as "Glorious", "Silver Chimes", "Geranium", "Cragford", "Xerxes" and "Pleiades" come to mind but they are another story.

Useful references

Jefferson-Brown, Michael J. "Daffodils and Narcissi" (Faber and Faber, London, 1969)

Hannibal, L.S. "Tazettas" (article in The Daffodil Handbook, Amer.Hort.Soc.Washington 1966)

van Pelt-Wilson, Helen and Bell, Leonie "The Fragrant Year" (Morrow, New York, 1967)

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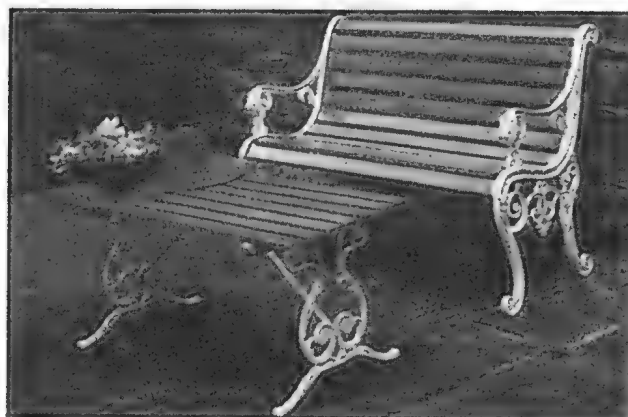
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Renovating the Ornamental Lake at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

Work on excavating the ornamental lake is now well under way. Although it may be hard to imagine at present, the lake will be transformed in a comparatively short while into that lovely clear sheet of water envisaged by Guilfoyle in his master landscape plan.

Development of the lake

The lake has its origins in swampy lagoon which, on the first maps of the Gardens, is shown adjacent to a meandering Yarra River. An early visitor described it thus:

"The lake or lagoon at the bottom, covering some acres of ground, looked wild both with rushes and aquatic plants, and a good portion of it occupied with a jungle of tea-scrub. There were two black swans sailing among the flags and bushes of the lagoon, giving it a truly Australian look". (1)

Several years later, another visitor observed:

"Upon this lagoon islands are being formed for the purpose of affording habitation to the clouds of natatores which haunt the place". (2)

From the outset this stretch of water has been an important landscape feature; however it was not until the 1890s that it took its final form.

The creation of the Ornamental Lake, with its adjoining smaller Central Lake, may be considered in three phases. Although the first two Superintendents, Arthur and Dallachy, made some attempt to deepen the lagoon and constructed paths around it, it was Baron von Mueller who undertook the first substantial alterations. In an effort to control the periodic flooding (the floods of 1863 were particularly severe), the swamp was excavated on several occasions. A stone wall and causeway were built along its northern perimeter. Several islands were formed and a fountain installed in one of them. They were planted mainly with native species, particularly *Melaleucas*.

Von Mueller's successor, William Guilfoyle, set about relandscaping the Gardens, including the lagoon. He wrote in his Annual Report of 1876 that the deepening of the lagoon would allow it "to take its proper place as one of the salient points in the landscape; and when the remodelling of the Gardens is complete, (it) will provide a most important feature in the views to be obtained from various points". (3)

Many loads of silt and humus were carted away manually. Part of the large island at the eastern end was removed; the other islands were carefully planted with flowering shrubs. Promontories were built to give the lake an interesting irregular outline. The long bridge which spanned the small channel between the main lake and Central Lake was replaced with a rustic bridge of twisted branches. However, the lake was still plagued with intermittent flooding, and this problem was not resolved until the 1890s when the Yarra River was straightened between Princes and Church Bridges. Alexandra Avenue was constructed as a major causeway which completely cut off the lake from the river. The Gardens gained an extra three acres and the truncated river bend was incorporated in the lake. At last, Guilfoyle realized his dream for the Ornamental Lake as the central feature of the Gardens.

References:

- (1) Howitt, W. "Land, Labour and Gold". (Boston, Tickman and Field, 1855, vol 1, p.31)
- (2) Anonymous. "News letter of Australasia", no.28, Dec. 1858.
- (3) Melbourne Botanic Gardens Annual Report 1876. (Melbourne Government Printer).



Reasons for excavation.

The lake is fed by surface run-off water from the Gardens and surrounding Domain Reserve. (There is a storm water outlet into the Yarra River). Over the years the lake has become clogged up with silt carried in the run-off water. The problem is compounded by the presence of an aquatic lily, *Nuphar luteum* (European Cow Lily) which was introduced as an ornamental into the Gardens last century. The lily flourished in Melbourne's mild climate and with the silt has formed a thick, twisted, choking mat across the main lake. The smaller Central Lake and the Nymphaea Lily Lake are not affected. The most effective way to control the weed is to excavate the lake to a depth of at least 1.5 metres, for the plant can only hope to grow in shallow water.

When the plant dies, it forms a stinking, rotten carpet of vegetation on the lake bottom and harbours a botulism organism which can be fatal to wildlife. (The bacteria cause paralysis of the nervous system). Dead birds were first picked up in the Gardens during the 1972 drought and since then hundreds of birds have died after feeding on the bottom of the lake.

Clearing out the lake serves three functions:

1. The restoration of the landscape beauty of the lake.
2. The creation of a safe haven for wildlife.
3. The extension of the Gardens' emergency water supply.

Excavation works.

Draining the lake by pumping the water through the Gardens reticulation system began on 19th April 1983. This is in fact the third time this century that the lake has been drained and cleaned out. The first occasion was in the 1900s when crews using shovels and wheelbarrows were employed. A second effort was made during the 1934/35 summer, using crude horse-drawn scoops.

This time, 450,000 cubic metres of sludge are being removed by a swampdozer, hydraulic extractor and 10-15 trucks. The \$269,600 tender was awarded to the Able Rossi Group of Mitcham at the end of April. The men moved in on the 17th May and are working two eight-hour shifts, starting at 6.00 am. It is anticipated that the work will take up to three months and both the Central and Ornamental Lakes will be dredged. The silt is being carted to Northcote for use as filling in the Darebin Creek parklands reclamation project. We do apologize for the disturbance to the northern end of the Gardens, however the final outcome should be well worth it!

The Campaign Trail.

The "Save the Lake" campaign was launched on 17th September 1982 by the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd, as part of the sixtieth birthday celebrations of the Sun News Pictorial. Alerted by the Friends to the deteriorating condition of the lake, the Herald and Weekly Times had approached Treasury and the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, and a target of \$250,000 was set. The Herald and Weekly Times generously gave \$20,000 to start the appeal. The State Government responded with a donation of \$50,000 and the guarantee of a further \$50,000 in the next financial year.

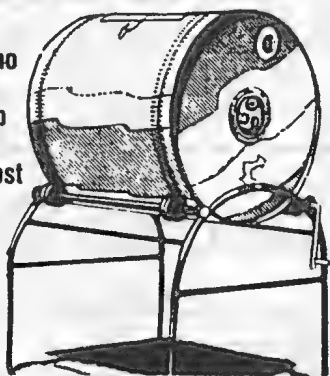
A vigorous publicity campaign followed. The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the World Wildlife Fund, sent a telegram wishing every success with the project. The M.M.T.B. provided a most striking tram "decorated" with a luminescent green skeleton on a black background to promote the appeal. Various garden clubs, schools, scout and guide groups, sports clubs and conservation groups ran fundraising functions. The Friends of course manned collecting tables in the Gardens and in the Myer Melbourne store.

The response from business houses was limited. Myer Melbourne and G.J. Coles each gave \$5000 but few other companies participated, reflecting the difficult economic situation. However the people of Melbourne, and indeed of Victoria, responded magnificently with thousands of gifts. By the end of April 1983, when the tender was let, \$103,600 had been raised, excluding Government contributions.

(The above is reproduced, with permission, from a supplement to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Newsletter No 4, May 1983.)

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An Overview of the Myrtaceae

Dr L. A. S. Johnson (Director) and Dr Barbara Briggs (Senior Assistant Director) of the National Herbarium, Sydney, have recently completed an evolutionary overview of the whole family Myrtaceae, and its relations to allied families.

The Myrtaceae is a diverse family, and includes gum trees, bottlebrushes, thryptomenes, lillypillies, guavas, and many more. The related families include Melastoma, fuchsias, evening primroses, crepe myrtles and pomegranates. Out of this diversity evolutionary "trees" of relationships have been built up. The evidence does not support the long-established division of the Myrtaceae into two major groups, or sub-families, and a new and radically different picture of the classification is emerging.

Another long term investigation at the National Herbarium by Dr Johnson and Don Blaxell (Assistant Director, Living Collections and Communications) is a comprehensive re-classification of the eucalypts. They have found strong evidence that the eucalypts are a diverse and ancient assemblage, including sub-groups as diverse as many well-established genera. To retain all these groups in the genus *Eucalyptus* would imply closer relationships among them than the evidence allows, so we will have to learn to recognize some ten genera within the eucalypts, some of which are quite large; *Symphyomyrtus*, for example, includes some four hundred species.

According to the internationally accepted procedures for plant naming the name *Eucalyptus* must go with the species first described; it will not be the largest group but will still have some one hundred species including the Blackbutt and the Mountain Ash (*E. regnans*) of Victoria and Tasmania. This new classification is expected to be available for use in 1984.

In yet another study of the Myrtaceae at the National Herbarium, Mrs Joy Thompson has found that *Leptospermum* includes some eighty species, of which thirty have never been described or named. Some of these are newly discovered but others have previously been confused with other named groups.

(from the Newsletter of the Friends of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Aug-Oct 1983)

Romuleas

by Gordon Julian

Romulea is a genus of mainly winter growing, spring flowering corms, with the greatest number of species found growing in South Africa, and a few others in the Mediterranean area and North Africa. The genus is a member of the Iridaceae family, and the Southern Hemisphere species usually commence their growth period in April/May.

With the commencement of growth a cluster of adventitious roots is formed near the base of the corm and the topmost auxiliary bud on the corm develops into a flowering shoot. The corm then gradually gives up its food supply and shrivels. The basal internodes of the shoot start storing a food supply and swell to form next season's corm, replacing the old one. It then remains dormant until the next growing season.

During the dormant period the corms require a good summer baking to ripen them, and little or no water is needed during this period.

There are over sixty species and more than twenty sub-species in South Africa. The plants range in height from 3 to 50 cm and the usually funnel-shaped flowers open singly from a cluster of reed-like leaves. Each flower opens for between three and six days, making a brilliant display on a warm and sunny day. They do not usually appear on cool overcast days.

Most of the species are self-compatible and many seeds are usually set in the capsules that are formed after flowering. These capsules will quickly dehiscence in hot weather, and unless seed is wanted they can be cut off. If not cut off the seeds will fall to the ground but will not germinate until the following autumn. On germination they send down into the soil a long contractile root that draws the newly formed corm to the correct depth.

Some of the species will flower six months after seed is sown and most others within eighteen months. There are a few very choice species that are a little reluctant to germinate, including *R.monadelphica* and *R.sabulosa*. Both are cherry red in colour, and very similar in appearance and habit. *R.hantamensis* is another species, purple with darker markings. It has only been germinated by three growers outside South Africa, and the writer of this article was the lucky third person; he now awaits flowering with great expectation.

The generally funnel-shaped flowers range through tones of cream, yellow, apricot, pink, red, purple, blue, as well as white; many have yellow in the throat and others have contrasting dark rings and marks; others have an entire single colour.

Seeds of *Romulea* species can be sown during March and April in the Southern Hemisphere, in pots using a sandy mix. A suitable mix is one consisting of three parts coarse sand, two parts loamy soil and one part leaf-mould or peat moss. A 100 mm pot is best, with a little drainage material in the bottom. Fill to approximately 20 mm of the top, sow the seeds and cover with approximately 5 mm of the soil mix. This can then be topped with a 5 mm cover of 3 to 5 mm diameter clean gravel chips. This topping acts as a mulch and prevents soil-mix from splashing out during watering or heavy rain. Seedlings usually appear four to six weeks after sowing. These can either be left in the pots for the second growing season, or at the commencement of growth the following autumn, carefully transplanted. This is best done by making a hole in the soil the same size as the pot and carefully transferring the contents into the hole.



top: ROMULEA FLAVA
bottom: R. FLAVA (yellow form)

You may now be wondering where to obtain seed of some of these desirable species. A few species of corms are available in Australia through commercial nurseries. Seeds of other species are easily imported from South African seed nurseries. Some of these are: Blombos Nursery, 15 Moreson Avenue, Durbanville, 7750, Republic of South Africa; Indigenous Gladiolus Nursery, 44 Norderburgh Street, Bellville, Cape, R.S.A.; Rust-en-Vrede Nursery, PO Box 231, Constantia, 7848, R.S.A. These nurseries have a very comprehensive range of genera including Anomatheca, Babiana, Cyrtanthus, Freesia, Geissorhiza, Gladiolus, Lapeirousia, Moraea, Romulea, Sparaxis, Tritonia, Watsonia and many others. Nearly all are easily raised from seed and many bulbs or corms can be grown for a small outlay. Try some next autumn.

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The Mangosteen

Botanical name: *Garcinia mangostana*

Origin: Malaysia and Sumatra

Tree description: attractive broad leaved evergreen tree with short columnar or pyramidal form of medium size, height 12 to 20 m.

Fruit description and flavour: the fruit are round with slightly flattened ends. When mature, the skin is reddish-purple to black, 40 to 80 mm in diameter and 80 to 180 grams in weight. The pericarp is thick, 5 to 7 mm. Edible portion approx 30% by weight. The aril is white and juicy and consists of 4 to 8 segments, with usually one to two seeds. Flavour is sweet, delicate, slightly acid and melting. Generally described as the tropics' most delicious fruit.

Cultural needs of grafted mangosteens.

With over 300 grafted Mangosteens now planted out in Northern Queensland, it is important that they be grown under the best conditions. They are rather exacting in their cultural requirements and the following hints will help them to thrive.

Field planting preferably should be in a medium to heavy soil with a reasonably high organic content. Sandy or light soils are generally unsatisfactory unless improved by adding at least an equal amount of heavy clay loam. Some Mangosteens have grown successfully in low-lying sandy swamp, where there is constant moisture and ample leaf mould.

Regular mulching to a depth of 100 mm (4 inches) is fairly essential. Constant soil moisture must be maintained at all times for young growing trees. Mature trees can tolerate short periods of dry weather.

Young growing trees should be fertilized every three to four months, except prior to winter; particularly if temperatures drop to 5 degrees Celsius.

Most commercially sold liquid fertilizers are suitable but care should be taken to see that the application is weaker, rather than stronger, than the recommended rates.

30 to 50% shade is essential for the first four years or at least until the tree is two metres high.

Mangosteens prefer hot humid climates, but will grow in a cooler climate provided that they are protected from low winter temperatures. Mature trees have survived temperatures down to 1 degree Celsius, with some defoliation, while some very young trees have not survived temperatures below 3 degrees Celsius.

More detailed information is available in the Rare Fruit Council's new Fact Sheet on the purple Mangosteen.

(Note: this article, by John Marshall of Cairns, is reproduced with permission from the Rare Fruit Council's Newsletter No 21.)



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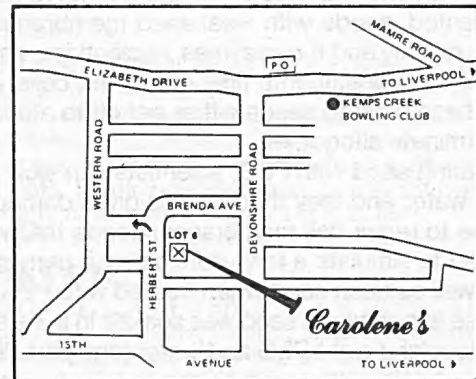


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Compost making

Compost making is normally a fairly long process, and for the best results the heap should be regularly turned - calling for a considerable amount of physical effort.

There is, however, a quick way of making good garden compost out of kitchen refuse, grass clippings, leaves, shredded newspapers, vacuum cleaner dust, and so on. The Compostumbler does it in two weeks: it holds 419 litres (90 galls) of material, and once you have filled it all that is needed is to give the handle on the drum five full turns each day for fourteen days.

Every good gardener knows that the secret of making good compost is to generate sufficient heat within the pile. Tests have shown that material inside the Compostumbler will reach a maximum temperature of 64 degrees Celsius, which is ample to ensure complete decomposition and the destruction of weed seeds, disease spores, etc.

Compost making is not only a means of enriching your garden soil, but it is an ecologically sound and efficient method of recycling organic waste. Properly made compost does not, at any stage, smell, it is not unpleasant to handle, and it costs virtually nothing. There is no need to burn your rubbish, cart it to the tip, or have smelly garbage bins outside the back door — put it all in the Compostumbler. For further details write to Garden Magic Pty Ltd. PO Box 104 Engadine, N.S.W. 2232.

garden

cuttings

Saving Seed

Scientists at the U.S.D.A. Seed Research Laboratory have found that coating seeds with polyethylene glycol (car anti-freeze, or PEG for short), may improve the performance of old or damaged seed.

As seeds age, or if they are damaged, the membranes within and around the cells of the plant embryo deteriorate. When planted, seeds with weakened membranes take up water too quickly and the enzymes, nucleotides, amino acids and other cell constituents flow out of the cells, or mix together. These bloated seeds either get off to a poor start or fail to germinate altogether.

By coating seed with PEG, scientists can slow down the intake of water, and they theorize this gives damaged or old seed time to repair cell membranes. Seeds that were artificially aged to simulate a few years storage germinated and grew as well as fresh seed when treated with PEG.

In these experiments seed was soaked in a 3% solution of 6000 molecular weight PEG and water (one part PEG to two parts water). When the seed began to take up water it was transferred to paper towels for germination.

PEG can also be used to pre-treat seed, and this treatment seems to improve the way in which the germinating seed handles environmental stress. British scientists have treated carrots, celery and tomato seed with PEG with good results, and have found that the treatment is especially useful in areas where the seed must germinate under cool conditions.

(from *The American Horticulturist News Edition*, March 1983)

Plants and Fire

Since the disastrous bushfires of last February much has been said and written about fire-resistant plants. The National Council of the Australian Institute of Horticulture decided, at its meeting in June, to co-ordinate information about the susceptibility of plants to fire. A limited amount of information has already been acquired, and it is hoped that upon obtaining further information a technical memorandum will be published.

Summer School for Home Gardeners

The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria will hold its sixth Annual Summer School for Home Gardeners at the University of Melbourne on 15th, 16th and 17th February 1984. Speakers will include Kevin Heinze, Allan Seale, Phillip Hicks, Stephen Ryan and Glen Heyne.

The cost is \$60, which covers the three days and includes lunch each day, morning and afternoon teas and a special dinner on the Friday evening.

Accommodation at Newman College is available at very reasonable rates; this however is limited and early bookings will receive preference.

For further details write to The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, 418A Station Street, Box Hill South, 3128. Telephone enquiries may be made to (03) 898 7646.

Intensive use of Poplars

Dr E. Kendall Pye, of the University of Pennsylvania, working with Morton S. Fry of the Miles W. Fry and Sons Nursery, has developed a "total biomass utilization of poplars". Fry's Nursery has been breeding fast-growing poplar hybrids for twenty years; now the best clones are planted two feet apart in rows three and a half feet apart, to give 6200 trees per acre; these grow to twenty feet in four years. They are then cut and yield 36 tons of dry wood, which will produce 3600 gallons of ethanol and butanol. Every two years thereafter 15 tons of dry wood per acre can be harvested from the sprouts which grow from the stumps.

Ethanol is used as a petrol extender, butanol for heating; by-products include animal feed, polymer-grade lignin and xylose.

Sundial research

Some two years ago, John Ward and Margaret Folkard, two physicists working at the Defence Research Establishment in South Australia, started making sundials as a hobby, their approach to the subject being that a sundial is not an ornament, nor a fancy, but a scientific instrument. Their hobby has now developed into a thriving part-time business, and they make sundials, accurately calibrated for the exact latitude and longitude, for countries as far apart and diverse as Wales and Saudi Arabia. As a crowning achievement John Ward was recently awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study the history and development of sundials in Europe and America; he leaves on a three months study tour in March next year.

Native Plants, Nothing New

While the boom in native plant gardens is largely a phenomenon of the last thirty years, certain native species have been widely grown as ornamentals since colonial days. From the 1950s the Society for Growing Australian Plants has promoted interest in the cultivation of our native flora. The "sandgropers" in Perth have long realised the value of many native plants, which have lower water requirements than exotic ornamentals. Native species have been planted on a large scale in places like Canberra and the Albury-Wodonga Growth Centre.

As early as the mid 19th century, though, native plants were available from nurseries and were prized for their curiosity and ornamental value. In Georgian and Victorian times most of the native species available for cultivation were trees, but by the turn

of the century a fair range of native shrubs, herbs and climbers were being offered by the major nurseries.

The Heritage and Conservation Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning has prepared a list of plants that represent a wide range of heights, shapes, leaf textures and colours, and flower colours to provide the owners of old gardens plenty of scope to grow natives and still be historically accurate. The species listed are those which were available from one or more major nurseries in the Sydney area from the 1850s to the early 1900s. A list of the plant species is available from the Heritage Council of New South Wales, Box A284, Sydney South, 2000. (Chris Betteridge, specialist - environmental/landscape, Heritage and Conservation Branch).

(Reproduced by permission from the Heritage Conservation News, Winter 1983.)

garden market place

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THARWA PROPAGATION NURSERY, 21 Myoora Road, Terrey Hills, N.S.W. 2084. Tel: (02)450-1967 - Tubestock for home gardens and landscaping makes good cents. Native and exotic trees, shrubs, climbers, and groundcovers in deep 'super-tubes' ready to plant in your garden. Most varieties \$1.20 each, every tenth plant free. Open 7 days, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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BUSHLAND FLORA, Box 118, Scarborough, W.A. 6019. Tel: (09) 446-3446 — W.A. wildflower seeds; rare and selected species - Banksias, Kangaroo Paws, Hakeas, Waxflowers, Feather Flowers, Eucalyptus, Melaleucas, Bottlebrushes, Everlastings, Sturt Peas, Starflowers, Boronias, Leschenaultias, and many more. Send stamped S.A.E. for descriptive list of 200 species.

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JOHIMA BOOKS, Village Arcade, Hillcrest Road, Pennant Hills, N.S.W. 2120. Tel: (02) 84-6576 — Specialist horticultural and agricultural bookshop; from "A" for African Violets to "W" for Weeds. Mail order service. Send SAE for catalogue.

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SHOWS AND SOCIETIES

GERANIUM LOVERS, The Australian Geranium Society meets monthly (alternating afternoon and evening). Quarterly journal, specialist library. Sub. \$6 per annum. Further information Membership Secretary, 27 Chichester St, Maroubra, N.S.W. 2035. Telephone (02) 349-2023.

Plants wanted

Mr Gordon Julian, 18 Fromalls Street, Toowoomba, Qld.4350, is seeking the following:

Babiana "White Queen" and *Babiana* in pink forms;

Dwarf *Narcissus* species;

Tulip species and other unusual bulbs.

He is prepared to buy or offer exchanges.

Mrs June Hebblewhite, "Wybalena", Auckland Hill Road, Coromandel Valley, S.A. 5051, is seeking a root of *Ophiopogon jaburan*.

Mrs J. Connell, 10A Prince Alfred Parade, Newport, N.S.W. 2106, is seeking *Carpentaria californica*.

Will any readers who are able to assist please write to the people named, and not to "The Australian Garden Journal".

"The Landscape Garden in New South Wales from Elizabeth Macquarie to Thomas Shepherd"

The publication of James Broadbent's paper, under this title, in our October issue has aroused some comment, and in some instances disagreement with the author's views. Neither the publishers of "The Australian Garden Journal" nor the Australian Garden History Society necessarily endorse the views expressed by contributors,

and welcome any contrary views of others, or information on alleged inaccuracies. Informed comment on this particular article will be especially welcome, and should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 588, Bowral, N.S.W. 2576

Letters

Mr T.North,
The Australian Garden Journal.

Dear Mr North,

I am writing on behalf of the Mount Macedon and District Horticultural Society, who are endeavouring to raise funds for the re-establishment of a hall in which to hold our Annual Spring and Autumn Flower Shows. The previous venue, the C.W.A. Hall, was destroyed in the devastating Ash Wednesday Bushfires, and will not be replaced as a hall.

We feel it is our civic duty as a public body to erect a replacement hall to the benefit of the community as a whole.

We are anxious for donations to assist us in this project, and hope that your readers can help us in this regard.

Donations can be sent to the Society's Secretary, Mrs Cherie Boldiston, "Lambard", Sangsters Road, Mount Macedon, Vic. 3441.

Many thanks,
Yours faithfully,
Stephen G. Ryan, President.

Mr Tim North
Editor, The Australian Garden Journal
Dear Mr North,

I am currently researching historical horticulture, that is nurseries, nurserymen and seedsmen including their lists and catalogues, and am writing to you with the hope of appealing, through your pages, to your readers and advertisers, including nurserymen and seedsmen, for any current or old seed or plant nursery catalogues or lists which they may care to send to me to assist in this work.

I am a technical officer with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and have published a book entitled "Years of Endeavour", which covers the subject in South Australia; I am now working in other areas.

The catalogues and lists received will eventually be listed and the list published so that the information contained therein may be made available to other researchers and thus developing a valuable horticultural resource.

In addition I would be grateful if seedsmen and nurserymen answering my appeal could furnish me with the following information about themselves: (1) official name of business, (2) when (year) and where (address) started, (3) owners names over the years, and (4) type of stock traded at the beginning.

I hope you can help me in my quest and thank you in anticipation,
Yours sincerely,
Robert F.G. Swinbourne F.L.S.

Contributions wanted

Articles, long or short, on any subject of interest to keen gardeners are always welcome.

In particular, articles are needed on those plant families that are of diverse horticultural value and interest, with a view to showing the unexpected relationships that exist among many of our common garden plants.

Some that come to mind are:

Onagraceae — Evening Primroses, Fuchsias, etc.

Oleaceae — Olives, Jasmines, Privets, Syringa, etc.

Apocynaceae — Vinca, Nerium, Allamanda, Mandevilla, Plumeria, etc.

Rutaceae — Citrus, Diosma, Boronia, Eriostemon, etc. *Ranunculaceae* — Anemone, Clematis, Delphinium, Helleborus, etc.

Rosaceae — Alchemilla, Cotoneaster, Geum, Rose, Prunus, Spiraea etc.

Anyone who is interested in taking up this challenge is invited to write to the Editor with his/her suggestions. Articles should be up to two thousand words in length; good black and white photographs or botanical drawings would be useful.

The Cropper Cracker

"At last! A Nut Cracker that is designed to crack the toughest nut . . . the Macadamia. The kernel remains intact, taste tempting perfect . . . Macadamia nuts taste better when they are freshly cracked. The Cropper Cracker is finished in high gloss hardwearing epoxy coating with a toughened steel cutting edge. There are no closing jaws which will pinch or cut fingers. This Nut Cracker would make an ideal gift . . . priced at just \$39.50 plus postage (\$2.50 NSW, \$4.00 other states)." Trade enquiries welcome phone (02) 427-5954.

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Mail to: CLARK CONSULTANTS PTY. LTD. (Incorporated in N.S.W.)
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Name

Address

Please send me Cropper Crackers to above address. Cheque enclosed for \$.....



Macadamia and hard shell nuts